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THE TIMES

40P

No. 64,930

SATURDAY APRIL 16 1994

SAS men injured as defenders flee

UN defied as Serbs attack Muslim town

By JOEL BRAND,
TIM JUDAH AND
TOM RHODES

BOSNIAN Serbs launched an all-out assault on the Muslim enclave of Gorazde yesterday in open defiance of Nato and the United Nations. Muslim defenders were reported to be withdrawing and UN officials said the town was on the verge of falling.

Two British soldiers, apparently from the SAS team that guided Nato warplanes on bombing runs last week, were seriously wounded when their observation post was hit in the Serb assault. General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, arranged an urgent helicopter evacuation for the two men as well as other UN personnel trapped in the battle.

The Bosnian Foreign Minister yesterday appealed for more Nato air strikes to halt the Serb offensive, but UN military officials said there was no question of that at the moment, although Nato jets were criss-crossing the area and an attack was possible if necessary.

Major Rob Annink, the main spokesman for the UN protection force (Unprofor) in Sarajevo, said: "The Serbs are closing in on Gorazde town. They have gained several kilometres of ground from the east and the Bosnian army is withdrawing."

He said the Serbs coming from the east were linking with fellow soldiers who have been pushing towards the south of the town in the two-week offensive that was brought to a halt by the Nato raids on Sunday and Monday. A French Etendard reconnaissance jet was hit by groundfire and badly damaged during the assault, but it returned safely to the carrier Clemenceau in the Adriatic.

Major Dacre Holloway, another UN spokesman in Sarajevo, said: "The Serbs are on the edge of town. The situation is very serious. It's possible they will take the town in the very near future. The Bosnian army has basically crumbled in the pocket."

The Bosnian Serbs, however, denied that the town was



kered a Sarajevo ceasefire with the threat of Nato airpower, the Bosnian Serbs have moved their forces to other parts of the country — most notably to Gorazde, an enclave they have always insisted must belong to them in the event of any long-term peace settlement.

The offensive on the besieged city started on April 5 when forces broke through a Muslim line of defence the day before General Rose planned an impromptu visit after UN military observers were refused access to the safe haven. The general was turned back, but the Serb forces hinted they would be prepared to talk about a truce. Although a 24-hour ceasefire was arranged, it soon became apparent that the Bosnian Serbs were continuing to bombard Gorazde. One Serb spokesman said that his forces were "cutting the enclave down to size".

After repeated warnings to the Bosnian Serb commander, General Ratko Mladic, General Rose called for air strikes twice last week, damaging Serb artillery and tanks, but doing little to end the siege.

General Rose had attempted to play down the Serb offensive since the start saying earlier this month that it was his impression that "nobody has the strength to make major changes in the strategic situation". Last year, General Philippe Morillon, then UN commander, made similar noises over Srebrenica and Fojnica only to see them collapse within weeks.

The intended deployment of Ukrainian UN forces to protect Gorazde has not happened and the air strikes, it seems, have merely strengthened the resolve of the Bosnian Serb army. On Thursday, the Serbs abducted 15 Canadian peacekeepers from a weapons collection point near Sarajevo, shelled Tuzla airport and, in a timely snub to the UN, produced a tank from hiding within the 12-mile heavy weapons exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital and demanded the return of their artillery.

Leading article and letters, page 17

Ambushed boy critical

By LIN JENKINS

DANIEL Jewell, 15, who was ambushed and badly beaten as he walked home from school, was in critical condition in hospital last night.

He was attacked in an alley near Testwood School, Totton, Hampshire, where he is a pupil. He struggled home and was taken to hospital by his

father, Daniel, who takes GCSEs this summer, suffered severe internal injuries but is not expected to need surgery. Three youths, 14, 15 and 16, all from the Totton area, will appear before Southampton Youth Court today charged with grievous bodily harm with intent.

Rate cut hopes after best inflation figures since 1967

By JANET BUSH AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A LONG-RUNNING price war between the supermarket chains was pinpointed last night as a key factor in the best inflation figures since 1967.

Share prices soared on hopes of an early interest rate cut as the annual rate of underlying price increases, excluding movements in mortgage interest payments, fell to 2.4 per cent in the year to March from 2.8 per cent in February.

It gave Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the proof he needed that inflation remains subdued. But Michael Portillo, his deputy, attempted to dampen hopes of lower

rates when he said it was wrong to jump to conclusions based on one month's figures. With the Bundesbank cutting its rates this week, many MPs suspect yesterday's news will pave the way for a morale-boosting interest rate reduction in Britain to help the Conservative cause in the local and European elections.

Mr Portillo's caution stems from the disclosure of a split between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, over the rate cut of a quarter-point in February. Mr Clarke had pressed for a half-point cut because of his worries about growth but Mr George urged caution because of concern over inflation. On Thursday

Mr Clarke admitted he might have been too cautious and said that Britain was on course to be the fastest growing economy in Europe this year and next.

The City believes Mr Clarke may cut rates in the next few days to ease his fears that the recovery may slow down in the face of huge tax increases from now on. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed 36.6 points higher at 3,168.3.

Many in the City believe that the arguments for a rate cut are compelling. Midland Global Markets noted that if taxes are stripped out of retail prices, the measure preferred by the Bank of England, inflation in March stood at only 1.8 per cent and will fall

further to 1.6 per cent this year. Underlying inflation is forecast to drop to 2.2 per cent.

Ian Shepherdson, an economist with Midland, said: "The capacity for good news on the inflation front is almost boundless."

Competition between the main supermarket chains has contributed to a run of good inflation figures. Food price inflation in the year to March was only 0.2 per cent, the lowest annual increase since May, 1983. But prices throughout the high street have remained subdued because consumers remain price-conscious.

ERM warning, page 21



Slimline marathon runner Janette Picton training yesterday for the run

Runner's marathon slim

DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A DISILLUSIONED international discus thrower who shed five-and-a-half stone when she took up running is hoping to be among the leaders in the London Marathon tomorrow.

Janette Picton represented England twice in the Commonwealth Games, coming within a yard of a medal four years ago, but she gave up the sport because she felt neglected by the sport's governing body and took up club running.

She slimmed down from thirteen-and-a-half stone to eight, and ran her first marathon seven months ago after seeing an advertisement on the noticeboard at the sweet factory where she works. She got round in three hours three minutes and is aiming to better 2 hours 50 minutes tomorrow.

"I have prepared for this, whereas for that one I did not," she said.

At 31, Picton is still young enough to rise to international level in her new sport. Championship selection usually starts at about 2 hours 40 minutes, although



Picton, discus thrower, competing two years ago

she is circumspect about her chances. "I never thought I would be running down the road, never mind a mara-

thon. So it is hard to say how good I might be." Tomorrow Picton will be competing against the German Katrin Dörre, who is aiming to complete a London marathon hat-trick, and some five thousand other women. The 25,000 men whose entries have been accepted include last year's winner, Eamonn Martin of Essex, who will be aiming to become the first man to lead the field twice. Martin is 4-1 second favourite behind the Mexican Dionicio Ceron, who was the fastest man in the world at the distance last year.

The race will be started in Greenwich by pioneer four-minute miler Sir Roger Bannister, at 9 am, and finishes in The Mall. The winner will be there soon after 11: chickens, clowns, rabbits and other charity runners could still be staggering home in the late afternoon.

Runners and spectators will consume 750,000 bottles of water and seven tonnes of pasta will be served up today at a carbohydrate-rich pre-marathon feast.

Marathon guide, page 9
Portrait, page 38
Preview, page 40

Army tributes to 'first class officers' killed by US planes

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE Army paid tribute yesterday to two "first class" British officers who were among the 26 people killed when American warplanes shot down two UN helicopters by mistake on Thursday.

The British victims were named as Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Swann, 51, of the Royal Artillery, and acting Major Harry Shapland, 28, of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards. Their bodies were flown back to Europe from the crash site in northern Iraq yesterday as the American enquiry into the disaster got under way.

Major James Andrus, commander of the American Third Air Force, flew from Mildenhall to Incirlik in Turkey yesterday to lead the investigation, and the commander of the British Harrier jump-jet detachment at Incirlik will act as an observer.

William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, promised that if individuals were found to be at fault they would be punished and that procedures would be changed if necessary, but he said there would be no rush to judgment. President Clinton said the enquiry would be completed as soon as possible.

Li-Col Swann, a married man with two children, had been on a six-month attachment to Iraq from the Royal Artillery Range on Benbecula in the Western Isles, where colleagues were said to have been devastated by his death.

Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford Stoddard, the commander of the range, said: "He was a first-class officer, respected and admired by all of us, and a loving husband and father. We all grieve for him."

Major Shapland, a bache-



Shapland: "Brave, tough resourceful, intelligent"

lor, was described as a man of great promise as well as proven success. His commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Sebastian Roberts, said: "He was a most lively and bouncy character, a great professional and a man the men enjoyed following. He was brave, tough, resourceful, intelligent, imaginative and, perhaps above all, a man of real humanity."

Major Shapland's home was the 17th century Oxfordshire farmhouse that was used as Howards End in the Oscar-winning film of the same name. Since joining the army in 1985, he had served in Germany, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and Northern Ireland. He flew out to Iraq at the end of January and was due home next month.

Li-Col Roberts said: "He volunteered for this work in the regiment was delighted to release him for it because he had exactly the talents that make British soldiers in such demand for these very tricky operations all over the world."

Enquiry starts, page 11

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Cypriot £1.15; Denmark Dkr 16.00;
Finland Mk 15.00; France F 12.00;
Germany DM 14.00; Gibraltar £2.00;
Greece Dr 400; Netherlands Fl 4.50;
Ireland £1.50; Italy L 3.50;
Luxembourg 500; Norway Nkr 25.00;
Malta £1.50; Morocco Dfr 25.00; Norway Nkr 25.00;
Portugal Esc 275; Spain Pes 250;
Sweden Skr 17.00; Switzerland Sfr 3.80;
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MONDAY IN THE TIMES



Matthew Parris, Columnist of the Year, on prime ministers and the press



Lynne Truss on Dawn French on the South Bank Show



William Rees-Mogg on being a "good" European



Libby Purves on men and emotional honesty



Peter Riddell on Labour's will to lose

PLUS

MARATHON TRIUMPH
Starting on Monday, only in The Times, a full list of those who completed the London Marathon

SECOND DEGREE
24-page guide to post-graduate course vacancies



Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, emerges yesterday from a 27-hour underground protest at Tower Colliery after its miners agreed to try to save British Coal's last South Wales pit. They voted to put their case to the industry's independent review panel and reject pressure to accept redundancy money and shut the mine. The miners are to report for work next Monday but claim their pay will be cut by over a third

Major superfan traced to call box

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A telephone conversation 11 years ago led to the act of support for the Prime Minister displayed in The Times yesterday

THE hunt for a mystery admirer of John Major ended last night in the Prime Minister's own backyard of Huntingdon. Benjamin Perl, a close friend of Mr Major, came forward as the man who paid £4,212 for an advertisement in The Times yesterday aimed at bolstering support for the Conservative leader.

Little could Mr Major have known, when he stood in a Huntingdon telephone kiosk in 1983, that he was winning a friendship that would bring such a surprising attempt to boost his prime ministerial career.

He was "bemused and surprised" yesterday to learn that anonymous friends had rallied round. With Downing

Street baffled as to the source of the unexpected backing and embarrassed at its tone, the hunt immediately began for those who put their money behind tempered words of support.

It quickly became clear that a loyal businessman, not a careerist politician, was behind the tactics. The trail eventually led to Mr Major's constituency and his earliest days as a hopeful backbench MP. In 1983, Mr Major had cancelled a visit to Mr Perl's picture framing factory. Mr Perl recalls a telephone conversation on the day of the re-

arranged visit. "Do you remember that we scheduled a visit to your factory today?" asked the MP.

"Yes, yes, Mr Major," the businessman said.

"Oh, I'm glad to hear you're ready for me," Mr Major said. "I was afraid that, as such a long time had passed, you might have forgotten and nobody would be prepared. If you look out of the window, you'll see me in the phone box outside. I'm walking right over."

And so was sparked a "warm chemistry" between the two men which led to Mr

Perl rallying forces to help a friend in need. Not that the advertisement was exactly a fanfare for Mr Major. The text, a copy of a leading article in the Financial Times, painted a portrait that was partly warts-and-all and partly all warts. It chronicled some of the worst moments in Mr Major's three-year premiership as well as some successes.

However, so faint was the praise for Mr Major that it left Labour's Paul Boateng asking: "With friends like that, who needs enemies?"

Mr Perl insisted that the "fair and balanced" tone of the advertisement "in no way diminishes our unequivocal support for and admiration of the Prime Minister."

Mr Perl's backing, however guarded, will come as a soothing balm to a Prime Minister

who has been continuously battered by political events of the past 18 months and faces two months of crucial electioneering.

The article's conclusion may not have massaged Mr Major's ego but it placed him slightly ahead of his political adversaries. "Mr Major will always lack charisma and his last two years have been unfortunate, occasionally inept. The leader of the opposition's have been worse, a nullity."

Joe Rogaly, its author, appeared surprised that his views should be used as the basis of a morale booster. Asked on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* whether the advertisers were right to take his article as backing Mr Major, he said: "I don't know what makes them think that."

Two hurt in clash at motorway site

Fighting broke out yesterday between security guards and 150 protesters from the campaign group Wanstead Against the M11. The protesters scaled 10ft walls lined with barbed wire at a site in Cambridge Park, east London, where work is under way on the link between Wanstead and Redbridge. Scuffles broke out with site security staff when the campaigners tried to stop work by climbing on cranes and diggers.

A male protester was taken to hospital by ambulance with a suspected broken leg and a woman received a black eye. Yesterday's demonstration came a month after the launch of Operation Roadblock, a new campaign to prevent the road from being finished. Then members of the group barricaded themselves in houses in the path of the proposed road, but were eventually defeated by police and bailiffs.

Police made no arrests yesterday. Inspector Neil Weller said: "We are here to co-ordinate and we have no authority over the site. The security guards are using whatever force they think necessary to get work going again." Wanstead Against the M11 plans future sabotage attempts along the proposed route. The motorway project is already five months behind schedule.

No race-attack charges

New evidence that halted an inquest into the death of a black teenager who was stabbed in an alleged racist attack a year ago was not enough to bring charges against possible suspects, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday. The family of Stephen Lawrence, an A-level student, criticised the decision and said that they were considering bringing a private prosecution. The 18-year-old, who wanted to become an architect, was surrounded by a gang of white youths as he and a friend waited in Eltham, southeast London, for a bus home to Plumstead.

Girl dies 'sniffing gas'

A teenage girl collapsed and died yesterday after apparently sniffing gas with schoolfriends. Ambulance men tried to revive Gemma Drakely, 14, of Crawley, West Sussex, but she was pronounced dead on arrival at Crawley Hospital. Two other girls were kept in overnight for observation. Gemma's grandfather, Alan Drakely, said: "I don't know exactly what happened, but it appears that it involved butane gas from a hairspray which was leaking." Sussex police said they were investigating the possibility that the girls had been inhaling gas from a canister.

Radiotherapy review

Working practices in hospital radiotherapy units should be reviewed, the final report of an enquiry into a cancer treatment blunder concluded yesterday. Human error resulted in 1,045 patients at North Staffordshire Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, being given insufficient doses of radiation. Although 401 died it was not possible to link their deaths with the error. The mistake went unnoticed for almost a decade. The enquiry team recommended that the Department of Health should satisfy itself that working practices in all radiotherapy departments were checked.

Tribunals scrutinised

The Parliamentary Ombudsman was given power yesterday to investigate claims of maladministration against various tribunals, including the one which hears appeals about the work of the Child Support Agency. The move was agreed without a vote by MPs who gave the Parliamentary Commissioner Bill an unopposed third reading. The measure extends the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to cover the work of administrative staff at tribunals. It also extends his jurisdiction to social security, disability and medical appeal tribunals.

Mines still missing

Ninety of the anti-personnel mines that floated out to sea from an Army testing station at Shoeburyness, Essex, just before Easter are still at large, Jonathan Aitken, the defence procurement minister, said yesterday. The missing mines are likely to be scattered over a wide area. Mr Aitken said that the mines posed minimal risk to the public as they were without their detonators. "Trials have shown that they would not detonate if exposed to heat or pressure. The emergency services are well aware of the situation," Mr Aitken said.

Car vandal on the run



Joseph Elliott, left, who was cleared of killing a musician who challenged him as he vandalised a car, was on the run yesterday after failing to appear in court for breaching a probation order for a burglary he committed in 1991. A judge at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, issued another arrest warrant for the 19-year-old, who was cleared of murdering Robert Osborne last year.

Brighton bomb MP dies

Sir Walter Clegg, former Conservative MP for North Fylde and the Wyre, Lancashire, died at his home in Fleetwood yesterday. He was 74. Sir Walter, a solicitor, had been wheelchair bound for much of the time since the Grand Hotel explosion in Brighton in which he was injured. He retired in 1987. His wife died last year. They had no children.

Gems sacking unfair

A chief diamond sorter sacked after being accused of stealing two stones from DeBeers won his case for unfair dismissal yesterday. Neil Newby, 43, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, may receive up to £15,000 compensation after the decision by a Croydon tribunal. When police dropped charges against him, the company refused to take him back.

Bank manager jailed

A bank manager who stole £90,000 from the National Westminster Bank when he ran into financial difficulties was jailed for 30 months by Kingston Crown Court yesterday. Thomas Jones, 52, of Staines, opened two accounts in false names at the Putney branch in south London soon after becoming manager and gave himself overdrafts.

Seaside flats collapse

Dozens of passersby escaped injury when a four-storey block of flats collapsed in Seaside Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex yesterday morning. The flats and a ground-floor shop, formerly a pizza restaurant, were in the process of renovation. Police closed the rubble-strewn street as gas and electricity companies worked to make the site safe and fire and rescue teams, with lifelines and cutting equipment, searched for victims. A police spokeswoman said there would be an investigation. "Incredibly there is nobody missing in the debris."

Lib Dems attacked by Labour on schools

By JONATHAN PEKIN
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR switched its attack to the Liberal Democrats yesterday as education took centre stage in the increasingly bitter local election campaign.

After a week of claim and counter claim over levels of council tax set by Labour and Tory councils, Jack Straw, the shadow Environment Secretary, turned on "the Jekyll and Hyde of British politics".

He accused the Liberal Democrats of failing to live up to their election pledges on education. "The Liberal Democrats only control seven major spending authorities — yet three of those have among the worst record of nursery provision in the country," he said. "They pose as the party of education, but in power they often let parents down."

The Liberal Democrat council on the Isle of Wight provided only one nursery education place for every 14 under fives, he said. In Liberal Democrat controlled Cornwall the figure was one in seven and in Richmond it was one in six. The average for Labour councils was four in ten, Mr Straw said.

The claims drew a swift response from Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat's education spokesman, who said 59 per cent of three and four-year-olds on the Isle of Wight were in education before school age. He challenged Labour to detail its commitments on nursery education provision before the forthcoming elections.

Labour's record on education also came under attack in a speech from Michael Portillo, the Treasury Secretary, who claimed nine out of the ten London local authorities with the worst GCSE results were Labour controlled.

John Smith was boosted yesterday by signs that the Labour Party's membership has begun to increase steadily. The membership figure, so long in the doldrums, stood at 270,000 on April 1, a rise of 10,000 on the same date last year.

Showpiece school now 'failing its pupils'

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LILLIAN Baylis school in Lambeth, south London, a former showpiece inner-city comprehensive, was yesterday judged by inspectors to be "failing" its pupils.

Four years after it received a £100,000 national education award, inspectors highlighted widespread underachievement and unacceptable standards in a damning report. The ruling gives the school governors 40 days to prepare an action plan. If this fails to satisfy John Patten, the Education Secretary, he can send in a "hit-squad" of former head teachers to take over the school and force it to opt out of Lambeth's control.

Lillian Baylis is the eighth school found to be failing since the Office for Standards in Education took charge of the freelance inspection regime. The team said the 828-pupil school was dogged by poor discipline, punctuality and attendance. Half the lessons were poor and fewer than one in ten pupils gained five GCSEs at grades A to C last summer.

The comprehensive, which has pupils of wide ethnic mix, won the Jerwood Award in 1990 for an innovative project fighting truancy by strengthening links between parents and teachers. It was also frequently applauded by ministers for improving pupil attendance. But Lambeth education authority inspectors expressed concern at standards two years ago. Hazel Hardy, the head teacher, took early retirement in May 1992 and was replaced by Greta Alkenay.

The school governors yesterday welcomed the Ofsted report and said they were confident that measures tackling the school's weaknesses were already bearing fruit. Lambeth said Ofsted had confirmed its earlier concerns: "In the four terms since the appointment of the new head teacher she has introduced measures to improve behaviour and to ensure the close monitoring of teaching."

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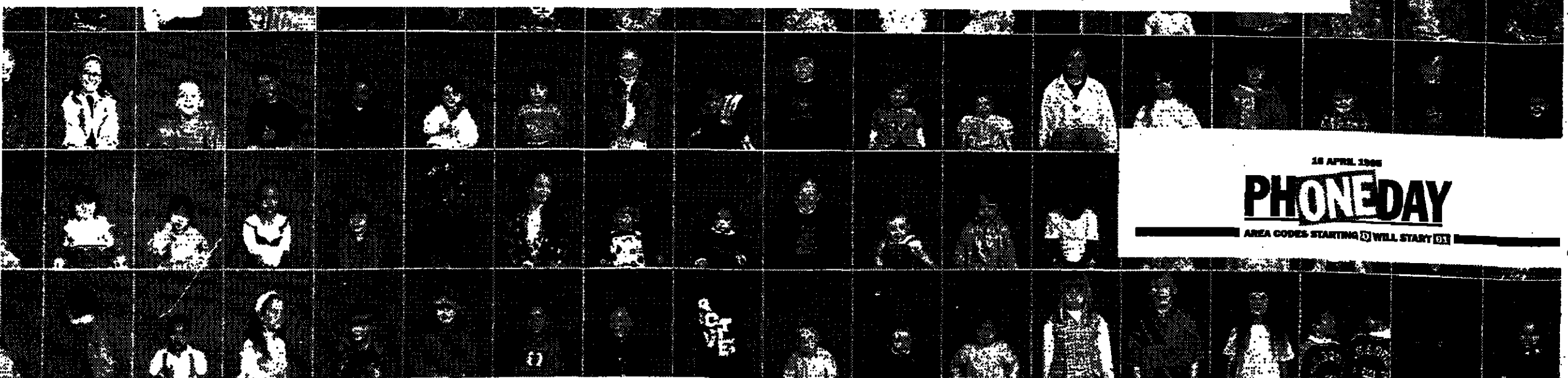
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16 APRIL 1995
PHONEDAY
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Police drop enquiry into child abuse at commune

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

POLICE have called off an eight-month investigation into allegations of child abuse at a cult commune in North Wales to the fury of former victims.

The decision threatens to end a campaign for justice by up to a dozen victims of the so-called 'Teachers' Community who claim they were severely beaten and abused between 1975 and 1987 at the farmhouse commune, Correg y Ffledwen, at Tregarth near Bangor.

The cult's activities were first exposed at an Old Bailey trial last August by Rebecca Teacher, now 19, who subsequently helped police to compile a dossier and to contact other victims prepared to give evidence of childhood suffering. She said yesterday: "It makes me feel dreadful that no action will be taken."

The investigation was dropped after police submitted a file to the Crown Prosecution Service, which concluded there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution. The cult leader was not interviewed.

The focus of the allegations was Miss Teacher's father, Kevin O'Byrne, 57, who was described by Judge Tayler at the Old Bailey as "deranged and viciously violent".

The judge likened his cult to those run by David Koresh in Waco, Texas, and the Rev Jim Jones, who led 900 disciples to suicide in 1978. His remarks were made after a jury cleared Miss Teacher of blackmailing Mr O'Byrne seven years after she had been rescued by her mother, who quit the cult and won wardship proceedings.

Miss Teacher accepted that she sought £50,000 from Mr O'Byrne by threatening to expose him to newspapers. But she said it was compensa-

tion for her suffering and to protect other children by financially damaging the cult. Evidence about the abuse she and others endured was accepted by the prosecution.

The court was told she made her demands only after her efforts to sue her father in the civil court and attempts to alert the authorities to her plight and those of other children failed.

Mr O'Byrne fathered seven children by four women at the commune — several of whom were registered in the surname Teacher — after having five by his former wife.

The court was told victims were subjected to experiments in child-rearing involving separation from their mothers, sexual abuse, beatings and treatment as "slaves".

Disenchanted parents and other children claim they also failed to have their allegations fully investigated. Miss Teacher added: "I went on trial and through hell for nothing. What angers me is that they were prepared to put me in the dock but do nothing against the cult when they know what it was doing to children."

Meanwhile, the Charity Commissioners have frozen the bank account of a registered charity set up by Mr O'Byrne to fund the cult and have taken control of its property because of concern over its administration.

The farm was abandoned about seven years ago, but the cult survives as a mainly adult group at a house in Ealing, west London. Comment was not available. Mr O'Byrne, however, who likes to be known as "Kevin of the Teachers" told police before the trial: "I have nothing to hide."



Dr Phyllis Quilly and her husband Stephen Windsor leaving the register office

Cancer specialist marries prisoner

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CANCER specialist yesterday married an armed robber serving a 14-year sentence.

The marriage of Dr Phyllis Quilly, an oncologist and radiotherapist at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, whose first husband was a prison officer, to Stephen Windsor took place at a register office in Dundee.

Windsor was jailed in 1985 for his part in a raid on a post office van in Edinburgh and for shooting at two policemen who tried to arrest him. The marriage took place while he was on home leave, which allows him to be out for the weekend.

The couple, both aged 42, met when Dr Quilly, who is also the club doctor with Dundee Football Club, accompanied two players on a morale-boosting visit to Shotts prison in Strathclyde in 1992, arranged by her former husband.

"Stephen just said 'hello' and a few polite words and that was it," Dr Quilly said. "I could not even remember what he looked like when he wrote to me several months after."

"He said he had been moved to an open prison and asked if I could get any match

tickets for the inmates when they were released at weekends. I passed the request to the directors and wrote back saying it was not really up to me. I heard nothing for two months. Then he wrote back saying the prisoners could not get permission to go to games anyway. He apologised for putting me to unnecessary trouble. I wrote back and we just started to correspond."

Romance blossomed after the couple met for coffee while Windsor was allowed out of prison for a day. He proposed to Dr Quilly when she visited Noranside prison in Tayside last July.

"I said, 'Fine', but that I hadn't been divorced yet. He wanted to do it with a ring but said it was difficult because he was on only £7 a week," Dr Quilly said.

Windsor was recommended for parole last year but it was turned down by the Scottish Secretary. His next parole hearing is set for July. He has always protested his innocence and Dr Quilly has pledged to support him.

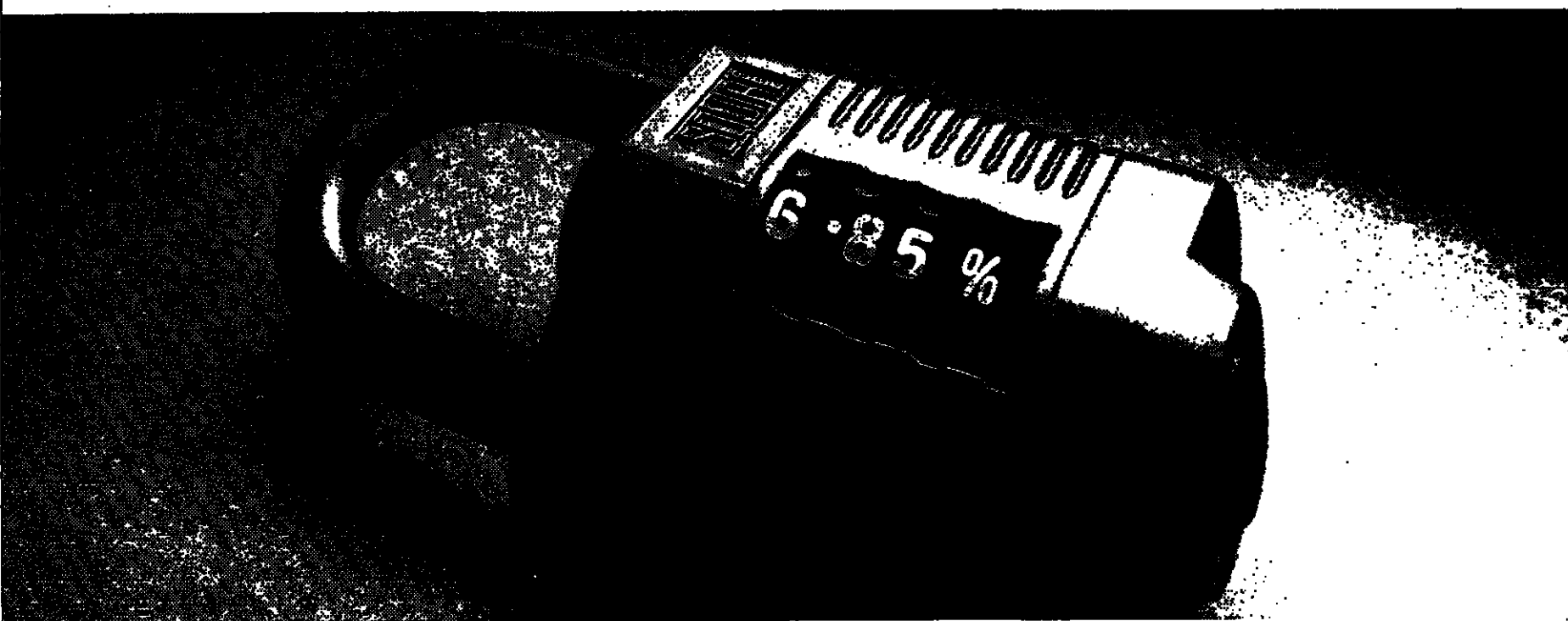
A friend of Dr Quilly's from Ninewells Hospital, said: "It's their own life, it's who she chose."

Why he chose The Times



■ Robin Knott, a retired architect from Teston, Kent, is glad he decided to switch from *The Daily Telegraph* to *The Times* to take advantage of the price cut. "I like the format of the paper especially the condensing of the paper's items on the back page. I read through that first and then turn to the stories I want to read," Mr Knott said. "It's a jolly good paper."

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Golfer 'not the sort to cheat'

AN amateur golfer suing two former friends who accused him of cheating was a "very competitive player" but "not the sort of man to cheat", a court was told yesterday.

Philip Townsend, the former owner of five insurance offices in the East Midlands, told the hearing at Nottingham County Court that John Buckingham, 57, a retired businessman, had been his golf partner for 12 years.

Mr Townsend, wearing the club tie of the Sherwood Forest Golf Club, near Workshop, Nottinghamshire, where the alleged cheating took place, said: "I trust him implicitly and have never had cause to criticise his behaviour on the golf course. He is not the sort of man to cheat," said Mr Townsend, of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Mr Buckingham is claiming damages from Reginald Dove and Graham Rusk who accused him of placing his ball in more favourable lies and dropping a ball down his trouser-leg during a local open competition in 1990 at the Sherwood Forest Club.

When asked about alleged cheating at the 12th hole during the round, Mr Townsend said Mr Dove had repeatedly approached him and commented that he had seen Mr Buckingham drop a ball.

He said: "I saw nothing to suggest cheating during that round. Mr Buckingham is a very good competitor and we all play in a very competitive spirit."

The hearing continues.

Axe attack on driver

A motorist smashed a lorry driver's window with a three-foot free-felling axe after a driving dispute on the M27 at the West End junction near Southampton. A 36-year-old man was arrested.

The 40-year-old lorry driver, who was not named by police, was injured by flying glass and "very shaken" by the incident. Last month, a Portsmouth man was stabbed in the face with a screwdriver by another driver in an altercation at the Locks Heath junction of the motorway.

Speeding fine

Robert Robinson, the broadcaster, was fined by £175 by Basingstoke magistrates after admitting driving on the M3 near Fleet, Hampshire, at 92mph. Mr Robinson, 66, of Chelsea, was also ordered to pay £20 costs.

Death crash

Ingle Sales, 76, and his wife Annie, 77, from Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, died in a head-on smash while driving the wrong way down the M63. The other driver's life was saved by the airbag in his new Vauxhall car.

Pike path open

The Wasdale Head Path to the top of Scafell Pike in Cumbria, England's highest mountain, was officially reopened yesterday. The National Trust has spent £60,000 repairing the path after erosion caused by walkers.

Victim wins private prosecution for attack

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who privately prosecuted a pub landlord who attacked him with a snooker cue won his case yesterday. The police had refused to press charges.

Gary Moody had his jaw shattered in the attack, which also altered his personality. He had been involved in a long-running feud with his assailant, Anthony Quinn, 33, manager of the Hylton Castle Arms at Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, and the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to take the case to court because Mr Moody's uncorroborated evidence would have been unlikely to secure a conviction. However, Mr Moody, 32, of

Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear, saved for nearly three years to raise £5,000 to bring a private prosecution against Quinn, who yesterday was found guilty of unlawful wounding by a jury at Newcastle Crown Court, and jailed for a year.

Quinn hit Mr Moody with the cue butt on the doorstep of the pub in May 1991 after ordering him to leave the premises. Mr Moody was unconscious for six hours and spent a week in hospital.

Mr Moody said: "After the attack I thought that charges would automatically be brought. But the police told me they didn't have enough evidence to prosecute."

Beach owner settles £1m sewage claim

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN has won a battle to save his west country beach from pollution with an out of court settlement that could trigger a string of similar claims against water companies.

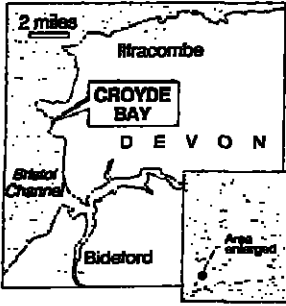
Michael Saltmarsh, who owns a holiday centre at Croyde Bay, near Barnstaple, Devon, issued his writ for compensation of more than £1 million against South West Water after sewage began spilling on to his beach.

He claimed that discharge pipes owned by the company were causing the pollution that was ruining his livelihood and endangering the health of holidaymakers.

During Easter, for example, an outflow pipe that runs across his site spilled raw sewage on to his half-mile long beach seven days out of nine, it is claimed. The company had said improvements were not scheduled for several years.

The decision to issue the writ was made by Mr Saltmarsh, 49, last year after his beach failed to win an European Community Blue Flag, a mark of cleanliness.

Despite investing in clean-



great day for Croyde." He urged the Government, which has been seeking to slow the rate at which sewage improvements are made under the EC's Urban Waste Water Directive, to recognise the damage that was being done to the south west.

The settlement could set a precedent for similar action elsewhere. Andrew Waite, a spokesman for the UK Environmental Law Association and a solicitor with Berwin Leighton, said: "Many people and organisations have been sitting back and awaiting the outcome of this action with great interest."

"It will be very important to local authorities and the National Trust, to name but two, for seeking similar compensation," he said.

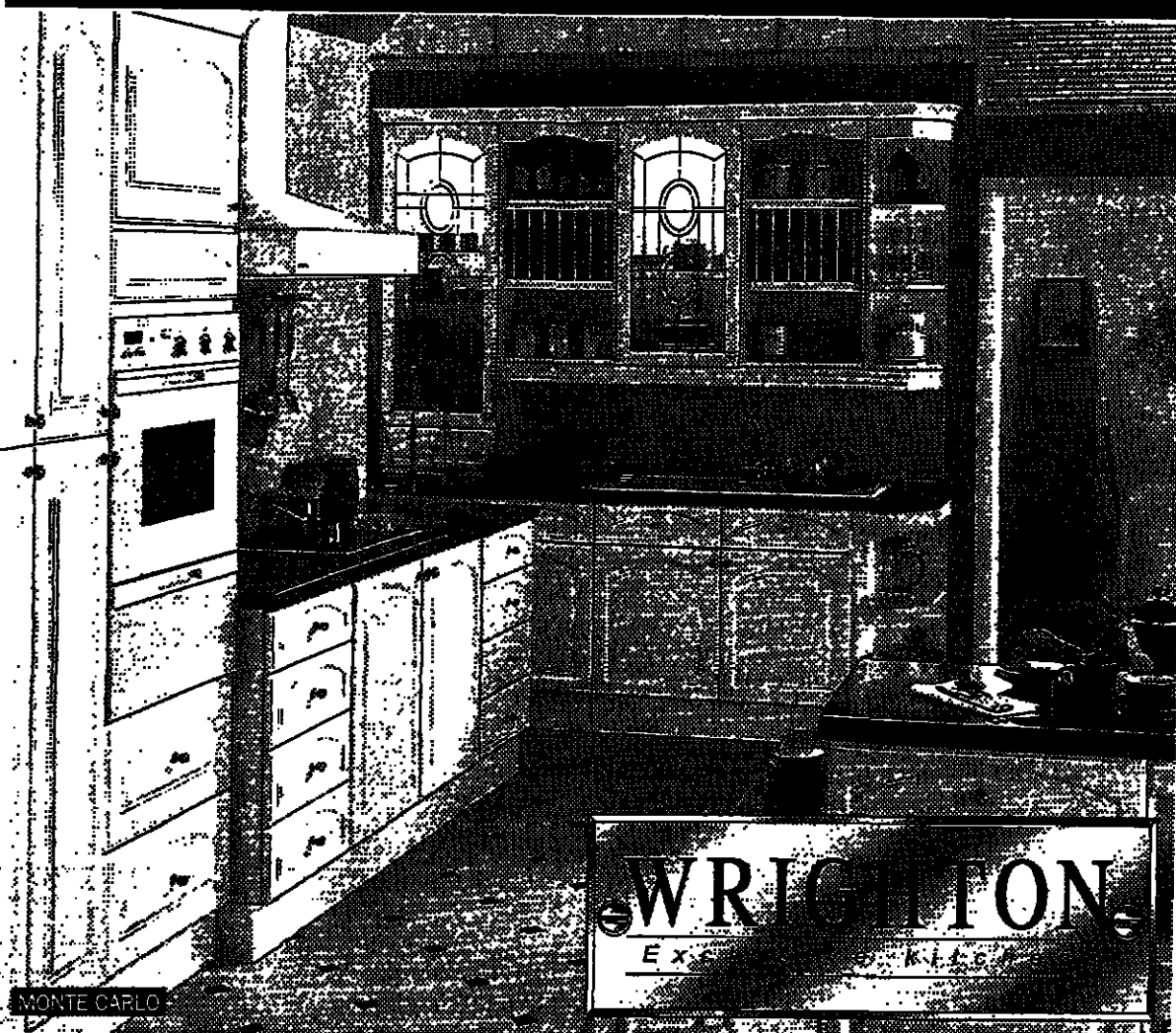
A National Trust spokesman said it was delighted and that the outcome was "extremely interesting". The Trust suffers from sewage pollution at various places including Studland Bay in Dorset.

The pressure group, Surfers Against Sewage, was also delighted. Chris Hines, its general secretary, said: "It is great to see an individual take on the might of the privatised water industry and win."



Michael Saltmarsh, left, and Chris Cook of South West Water on the beach after the settlement. It failed to win a Blue Flag for cleanliness

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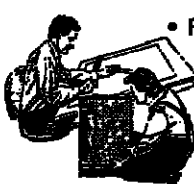
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Graduates join rush for further degrees

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

RECORD numbers of students are expected to join the scramble for postgraduate places after completing their first degrees this summer. Postgraduate education is booming, with one in four students deciding to continue their studies.

Helene Bradley, 23, is one example of how extra qualifications can enable graduates to steal a march on their peers. She took a one-year diploma course in broadcast journalism at City University, London, last year, after gaining a sociology degree from Warwick University.

"The course taught me the skills I needed to get a job in broadcasting," she said.

A three-week work attachment with BBC Radio Berkshire, part of the course, helped win Ms Bradley a researcher's job at the station last summer. Next month, she moves to Radio 5 Live to present travel news.

Universities are also keen to encourage further postgraduate expansion as an alternative source of income after the Government's decision in the November budget to freeze undergraduate admissions for three years from October.

A 24-page supplement published free with *The Times* on Monday will provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of this year's graduate opportunities. It will detail almost 5,000 courses at 153 universities and colleges, covering everything from nine-month vocational programmes to part-time masters courses taken over several years.

Britain has more rats than people

BY ANDREW PIERCE

RATS now outnumber the 58 million British population, according to a national survey. There is a rat within 20 yards of every man, woman and child, researchers say, and there has been a 39 per cent rise in infestations in homes since 1979.

Scientists fear the decision of local authorities to contract out and charge more than £30 for rat catching may lead to a further increase. The Institution of Environmental Health Officers survey, published yesterday, shows that one in 20 houses is affected. Infestation in rural areas is up 48 per cent since the last national survey in 1979.

The institution said it was sympathetic to local authorities whose costs are under pressure. "But we fear the people at risk, such as the ones who cannot afford the inspection fees, will not report infestations."

Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent, South Oxfordshire and Sussex have one of the most stubborn rat species, dubbed "son of super rat", which is resistant to poisons. Millions of pounds is being spent on research by companies to try to find an effective poison to turn the tide.

Graham Jukes, of the institution, said: "Fluctuations in the rat and mice population are normal. This increase could represent a worrying trend if it continues unabated. Rats in some areas have been found to show resistance to traditional baits."

The survey involved 178 local authorities and 10,000 properties and was carried out from October 1992 to the end of last year.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Champions defend Welsh title

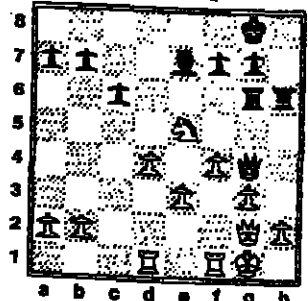
This event was played from April 1 to 4. The tournament resulted in a success for the defending champions, John Cooper and Howard Williams, who finished equal first and shared the title. Howard Williams has won the Welsh Championships 10 times outright and shared it 7 times since 1968.

White: Cooper
Black: Richmond
Batsford Welsh Championships 1994

Semi-Slav Defence	
1 Nf3	Nf6
2 c4	e5
3 Nc3	d5
4 g4	c5
5 e3	Bd4
6 Bc2	Nbd7
7 Bc3	O-O
8 O-O	Re6
9 Nbd5	Nc5
10 cxd5	Bxc2
11 dxc6	Bd4
12 exd7	Bxd7
13 Ne5	Be6
14 Bc4	Bd6
15 Bxe6	Rxe6
16 Nf3	Be7
17 Re1	Qd5
18 Re1	Be6

19 g3	Rae8
20 Nh4	Bb4
21 Rf1	Rf6
22 Ng2	Bc6
23 Qg4	Re6
24 Rf1	h5
25 Qe2	Re4
26 Red1	Qf5
27 Rf1	Ch3
28 B	Re6
29 Qf2	h4
30 Nh4	Rf6
31 f4	Rf6
32 Nf3	Rf6
33 Ng5	Qg4
34 Qf5	Qd7
35 Qg2	Be7
36 Nf3	Qg4
37 Ne5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Final Scores
Williams, Cooper 5 from 6 possible A
Cox, D. K. Evans, A. R. Jones, J. R. Smith
and A. Shortland 4.5

Winning Move.
Weekend page 27

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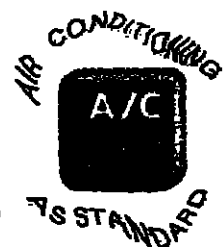
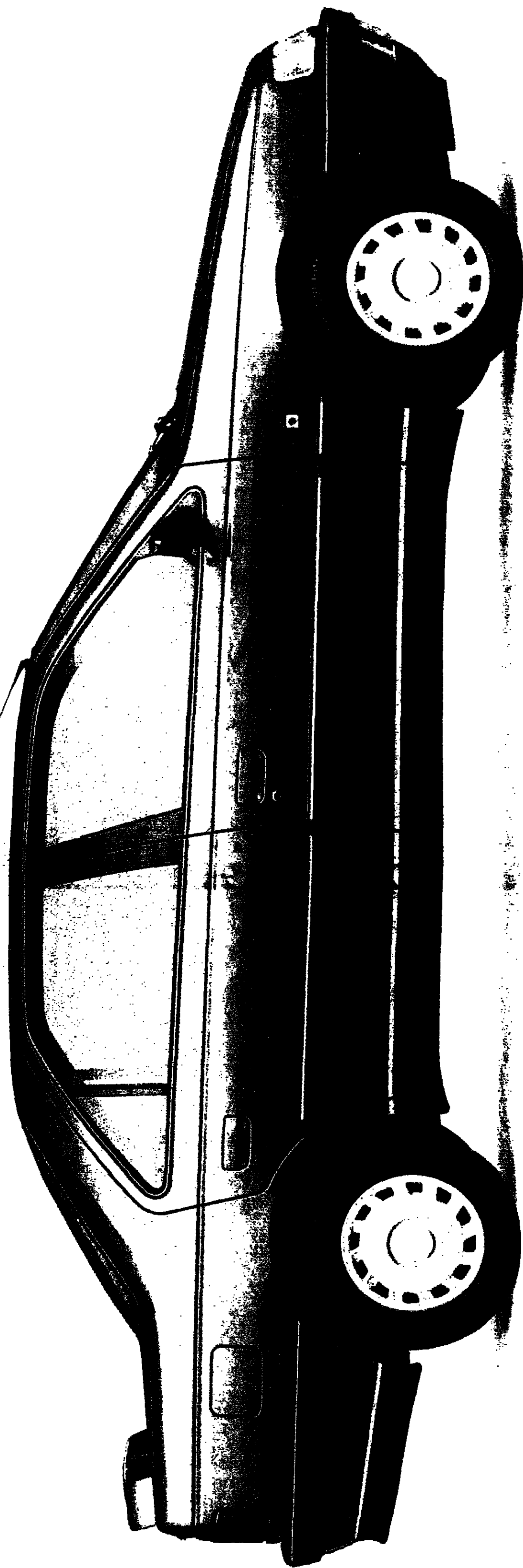
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Major found not guilty of wounding hunt saboteur

A FORMER Army major was yesterday cleared of wounding a hunt saboteur whom he hit over the head with a hunting whip.

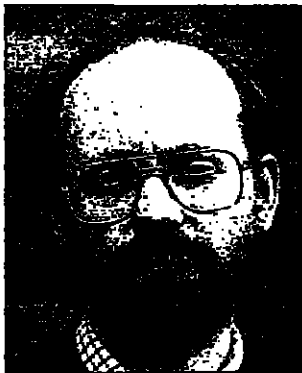
It took the jury at York Crown Court only eight minutes to find Richard Grieve not guilty of unlawful wounding when he split open the head of agitator David Callender during the final meet of the Middleton Hunt in Yorkshire a year ago.

After the hearing Major Grieve, 50, a bachelor with 28 years' service in the Royal Artillery, said: "I've never denied that I struck him with my hunting whip but I am not proud of what I did. It happened purely because I came to the defence and aid of a friend who was about to be attacked."

Major Grieve, of Beckwithshaw, North Yorkshire, said: "This trial has knocked away at me every day for a year."

"I realised its seriousness and the possibility, if found guilty, that I could be jailed."

He said: "I'm not gloating at the result but I am delighted not just for myself but for hunting in general. The sabo-



Callender: needed several stitches



Grieve: "came to the defence of a friend"

teurs cannot expect to act like hooligans and get away with it.

"The experience has not put me off fox hunting but it has taught me how things can happen on the spur of the moment."

"Whacking this man was the only thing I could do in the circumstances."

Mr Callender, 35, of Rhyl, Gwynedd, said he was among 80 protesters intending to disrupt fox hunting at Wharfedale, North Yorkshire, when Major Grieve, without provocation, hit him

on the head. He said the blow was struck with the Major's bone-handled riding crop and came from behind.

His head was split open to the skull and, bleeding profusely, he was taken to hospital where the wound needed several stitches.

Major Grieve, who was acting as a hunt marshal on the day, said that he hit Mr Callender with his hunting crop after seeing that an elderly colleague and farmer, David Jack of Welburn, North Yorkshire, was about to be pulled off his horse by the

saboteur. Major Grieve was headquarters squadron commander for families and welfare officer at the Army apprentices college in Harrogate before he was retired from the Army under recent redundancies.

After the case Phil Burrows, spokesman for the Yorkshire Hunt Saboteurs, said: "The decision just gives hunt followers licence to do what they want."

"It is unbelievable that a man who admits cracking his whip over someone's head can walk away free."

"It seems the wreckers, thugs, and bullies are those people of some standing who are out in the hunting field. Our policy is one of non-violence."

A spokesman for the British Field Sports Society said: "Unfounded allegations by hunt saboteurs against hunt followers are all too frequent. This case is another where deliberate sabotage has resulted in a waste of police and court time and public money."

He added: "Major Richard Grieve has properly been acquitted of this unlawful wounding offence."



Nigel Ward of Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, reunited yesterday with his border terriers, Pip and Rick, trapped for two weeks down a badger sett. He called to the dogs every day until they became so thin they were able to free themselves

'Leaking duck' clerk gets £1,500

AN ACCOUNTS clerk who was dismissed after her boss suspected her of leaking plans for a toy duck to her estranged husband, who worked for a rival firm, received £1,500 compensation yesterday.

An industrial tribunal upheld a complaint by Anne Phillips that she lost her job with plastics firm Promould because she was married to a competitor. The award was for damage to her career and hurt feelings.

The Reading tribunal was told that Mrs Phillips, 28, was dismissed when her boss, Gian Pearson, learnt that a confidential design for Plucky Duck, a promotional giveaway, had fallen into the hands of her estranged husband Tony Phillips, 30, a salesman with Banbury Plastics.

Mr Pearson denied dismissing Mrs Phillips because she was married to a rival. He said that he was becoming increasingly concerned about security in the company after several leaks.

In a written judgment, the tribunal chairman said the panel agreed that Mrs Phillips was treated less favourably because of her marital status. Promould is to appeal.

Vatican 'will not move on women priests'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CARDINAL Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, yesterday ruled out any chance that the Roman Catholic church might reconsider its stance against women priests. Speaking after a four-day meeting of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, Cardinal Hume said the ordination of women "is not on the church's agenda". His comments came as more than 70 women in the London diocese of the Church of England prepared for their ordination to the priesthood at St Paul's Cathedral this weekend.

The ordinations have been the catalyst for many Anglican clergy and laity to join the Catholic church. Some Catholics have warned incoming

Anglicans that it was only a matter of time before their church went down the same path. However, the cardinal said it was misleading to suggest that the Vatican's decision this week to allow girls and women at the altar as servers during mass represented a step towards women priests.

Cardinal Hume said: "The mind of the Holy See is that it is not on the agenda that women will be ordained to the priesthood."

The Catholic bishops called yesterday for the Government to consider action against overtly racist organisations and political parties.

Letters, page 17

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Church sees birth of a new unity

Mary Grey

The Christian Church in England is no stranger to conflict: from the Synod of Whitby in 664 (over the date of Easter) to the Reformation we have wrestled frequently with the pain and confusion of dissension and the brokenness in its wake, a brokenness which is a scandal to believers and non-believers alike.

So it is unsurprising that the ordinations of 75 women in London this weekend and of 50 in Lichfield next week evoke once again this bitterness and confusion. Not only have accusations of heresy and betrayal of orthodoxy become frequently hurled threats but, apparently, Church unity is being sent back to the beginning in this ecclesiastical Snakes and Ladders.

Yet Christians have a more profound source of unity than our denominational differences. In a fragmented society, calling out in some distress for moral leadership, it is timely to recall the Holy Spirit's presence to the Church.

Recalling the wry comment "Jesus came announcing the Kingdom, but what happened was the Church" suggests the possibility that we may be idolising the institution instead of recalling what it is for, namely, that "the blind see, the lame walk and poor have the good news preached to them" (Luke 7:22).

The brokenness of human experience and the life-endangering forces which threaten the planet itself are precisely the vulnerable places where ministry starts. That the Church continues to grow despite the tensions is because at a very deep level she knows she is servant to this community of life.

At grassroots level in parishes and in myriad groups for justice and peace, thousands of Christians are transcending denominational differences. They experience and affirm the ministerial gifts of both

women and men in an enabling ministry which recognises each Christian denomination.

As a Roman Catholic, I respect and support the Church of England's initiative in redeeming the deep wounds of history as regards the discrimination of women in the Church and hope that this will prove a catalyst for us in the Roman Catholic Church to seriously reconsider our position. But I also want to urge the Church of England not to lose heart at the so-called mortal blow supposedly dealt to Anglicanism. It is the very success of grassroots ecumenism which has enabled such a large body of support for this action from Roman Catholic believers, who see it not as an occasion to leave our Church (although I realise some have done so), but rather as a sign of hope that some day an authentic collaborative ministry will be fashioned for the Roman Catholic Church.

What the Holy Spirit's action is recalling us to is the fundamental point that in a fragmented world, what is redemptive are the uniting factors which at the same time respect the differences. It is possible that what we are witnessing is not the end of ecumenism but the birth of a new form: not the striving for a seamless harmony but an organic unity which flourishes because of a diversity in which we trust.

After all, it was through the diversity of the first Pentecost that the Church was born. And Pentecost was experienced as an explosion of joy and hope, a joy which I saw on the faces of those women ordained at Bristol and all who supported them; a joy which suggested that the Church itself was offering a new face to the world.

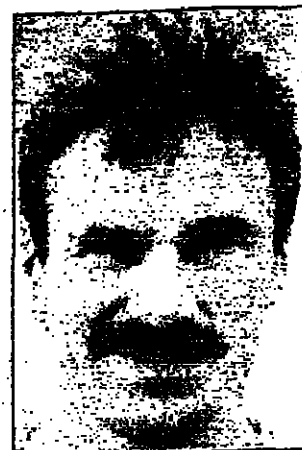
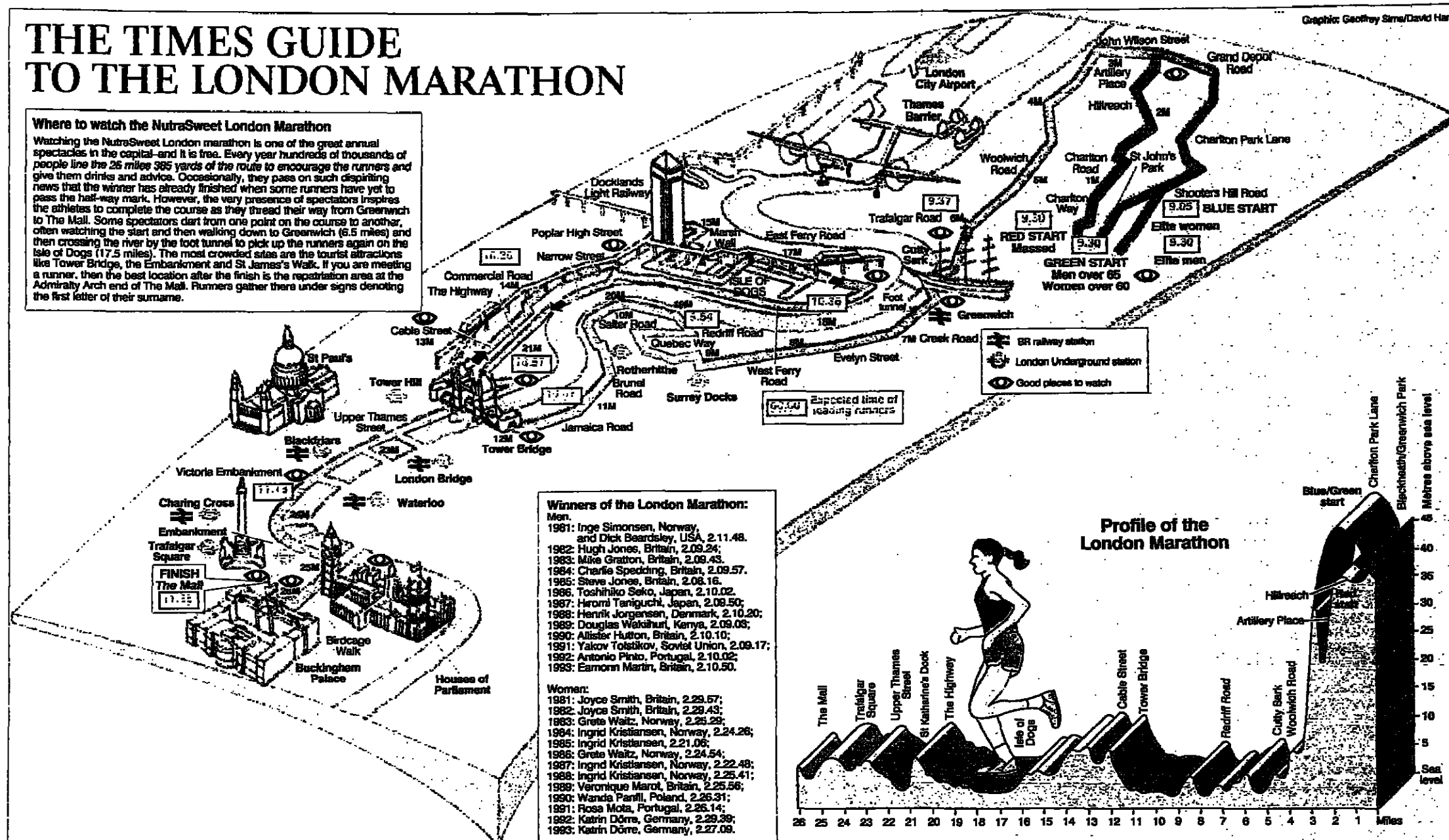
Mary Grey is professor of contemporary theology, La Sainte Union College, University of Southampton

When the going gets tough in London tomorrow, sex will separate the boys from the girls

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE LONDON MARATHON

Where to watch the NutraSweet London Marathon

Watching the NutraSweet London Marathon is one of the great annual spectacles in the capital and it is free. Every year hundreds of thousands of people line the 26 mile 385 yards of the route to encourage the runners and give them drinks and advice. Occasionally, they pass on such dispiriting news that the winner has already finished when some runners have yet to pass the half-way mark. However, the very presence of spectators inspires the athletes to complete the course as they thread their way from Greenwich to The Mall. Some spectators start from one point on the course to another, often watching the start and then waiting down to Greenwich (6.5 miles) and then crossing the river by the foot tunnel to pick up the runners again on the Isle of Dogs (17.5 miles). The most crowded sites are the tourist attractions like Tower Bridge, the Embankment and St James's Walk. If you are meeting a runner, then the best location after the finish is the reception area at the Admiralty Arch and of The Mall. Runners gather there under signs denoting the first letter of their surname.



Martin: money will help youngsters

Mirth at the birth of a novel sponsorship

By John Goodbody

LAST year, Julie Martin gave birth three days before her husband, Eamonn, won the London Marathon. Yesterday, Britain's leading long-distance runner announced that a condom company was sponsoring him for one year for a minimum of £10,000.

It was all knockabout comedy at the launch with runners, officials and the journalists trying, and failing, to keep straight faces about the details of the first British athlete to be sponsored by a condom company.

Mel Batty, Martin's coach, was busily handing out press releases, promoting the condoms with observations such as: "They add flavour to your sex life, because they can make it fruity, colourful, and most important, safe." For a world usually more concerned with split-times, shoe brands, and carbohydrate loading, it was quite a novelty.

Martin, with his wife keeping a discreet presence in the background, said without a smile: "I always say about a product you cannot endorse it unless you have tried it."

Martin emphasised that the money would help his club, Basildon AC, to transport members to meetings. He said: "Many of our 300 members are youngsters and they cannot easily afford to travel round the country."

Leading article, page 17
Preview, page 40

Saturday portrait, page 38

Women are built to go the marathon distance

By John Goodbody
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT



Dörre: going for the hat trick

THE 26,000 runners in tomorrow's NutraSweet London Marathon face 26 miles and 385 yards in showers and gusty winds, but proportionately more men than women are expected to drop out.

Chris Brasher, founder of the London Marathon, and Eamonn Martin, last year's winner, both believe women have greater physical and psychological reserves.

"Psychologically women can stand pain better than men," Brasher said. "Certainly in my family it is my wife Shirley [a former Wightman Cup tennis player] who is the strongest."

Women's ability in endurance events is not confined to running. "It is a woman who has swum the English Channel in the fastest time and, at one stage, women held the 24-hour cycling endurance record and the best performance for the three peaks race of Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon," he said.

Although in certain sports, such as long-distance swimming, a woman's fat reserves are an advantage, it is their psychological fortitude which gave them the real edge. Martin, from Basildon, Essex, who hopes tomorrow to become the first British man to win twice, agrees with Brasher. "My feeling is that women are naturally better endurance athletes."

They are born for the labour of childbirth," he said. This year, 30,604 male and 5,070 female entries have been accepted, although only about 26,000 are expected to start, because

A full list of finishers in the London Marathon will be published exclusively in *The Times* next week starting on Monday

of late withdrawals through illness and injuries.

Katrin Dörre, of Germany, who is hoping to win the women's event for the third successive year, partly attributed her increased competitive

strength to childbirth, an experience shared by several other leading sportswomen, including Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway, four times London winner, Briton Liz McColgan, the 1991 world 10,000 metres champion, and Maggie Hohmann (née Kelly), Britain's Olympic medal winning swimmer.

Dörre won the 1993 women's race in 2hr 27min 09sec and Martin was first man in 2hr 10min 50sec. The difference in times is explained partly by women's marathon running being relatively undeveloped. It was added to the Olympic programme only in 1984, where men have been going the distance since the first modern games, in 1896. The 14th London

Marathon will be started by Sir Roger Bamister, who 40 years ago ran the first mile in under four minutes, and Brasher and Chris Chataway, who paced him to his historic record.

Brasher said: "The London Marathon has developed beyond anything I could have dreamt. We have got to get the conditions right for everyone, whether they are at the front, in heavy uniforms like the paratroopers and those dressed as Roman Centurions, or the millions of ordinary runners trying to fulfil their physical potential."

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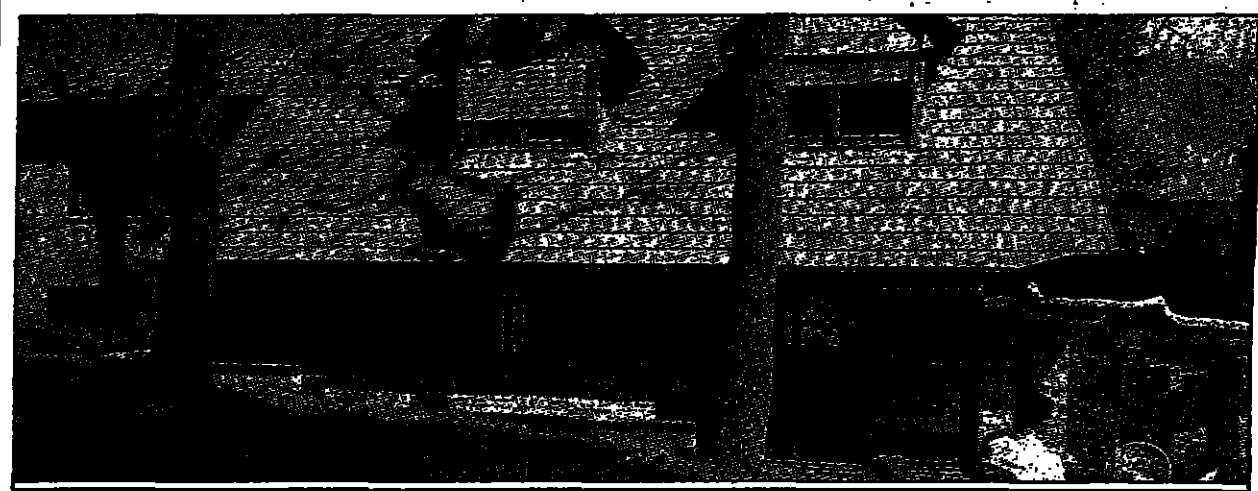
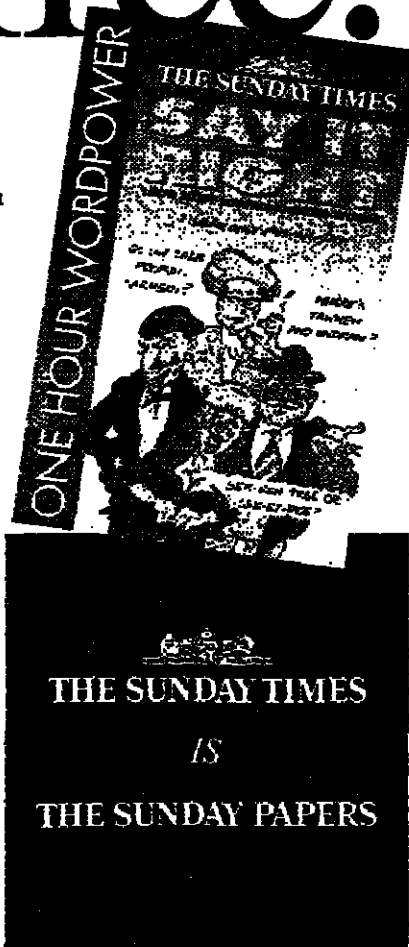
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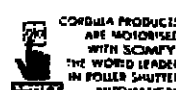


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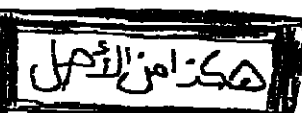
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Team opens friendly fire investigation in Turkey

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A TEAM of military investigators arrived in Turkey yesterday to try to establish the cause of Thursday's accident in which two American F15s destroyed two of their own helicopters, killing 26 passengers and crew.

The team is headed by Major General James Andrus, commander of the Third Air Force in Europe based at Mildenhall, Suffolk, Britain. France and Turkey, all of whom lost officers in the accident, have been invited to appoint associate members. The bodies of the victims were flown yesterday to Diyarbakir in Turkey.

The incident occurred in good weather and broad daylight and with an American Awacs radar plane supervising the entire encounter. William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, said there were at least eight procedures or systems in place that should have prevented the accident, "so it's a mystery to us why it could have happened".

Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, said that "a lot of very painful and difficult questions need to be asked."

and more important, they need to be answered". It is now known that the helicopter pilots had filed flight plans on Wednesday; these had been thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the aircrews, including the F15 pilots, who were to



Perry: eight protection procedures in operation

patrol the "no-fly zone" on Thursday. It is possible the helicopters deviated from their planned route as they made various stops, but they were apparently in radio contact with the Awacs. So too were the F15 pilots, who were guided

to the helicopters by the Awacs and who told of their intention to attack them. The Awacs controllers were supervising only 36 aircraft that morning.

The Black Hawks were equipped with electronic beacons that emit "squawking" signals identifying them as friendly aircraft if "interrogated" by allied aircraft. They should also have been transmitting a continuous signal of identification over an international civil navigation frequency.

F15s have "eagle eyes" telescopes giving pilots close-up views of targets up to ten miles away. In this case Mr Perry said the pilots also flew twice past the helicopters, albeit at great speed, and "positively identified" them as Iraqi Soviet-built Mi24 Hind helicopters.

The Black Hawks had been fitted with external fuel tanks to extend their range and these could have been mistaken for the stubby winglets of Hinds. F15 pilots are considered "the elite of the elite". They could have tried to contact the helicopters by radio, but Mr Perry

said this was not part of prescribed procedures and they had not done so. Unlike their counterparts in Bosnia, the US pilots were not required to seek final authority from their base in Incirlik, Turkey, before firing on violators of the no-fly zone.

Mr Perry added that, while tensions between the Iraqis and the Kurds had been building in recent months, there was no particular reason for the American pilots to be on heightened alert or particularly edgy on Thursday.

US scientists have been working on improved means of distinguishing between friendly and hostile aircraft, including electronic devices analysing the pattern of engine turbine blades. No amount of technological improvements will be able to eliminate human error, however. Moreover, these improvements scarcely keep pace with improvements in the performance and destructive power of modern combat aircraft that test the reaction of pilots to the limit.

British victims, page 1

Footballers from Haiti seek asylum

BY DAVID ADAMS

MEMBERS of Haiti's national football squad have threatened to commit suicide rather than go home after the Caribbean Cup tournament ended in Trinidad.

The US Embassy in Trinidad has turned down their plea for asylum. Of the 18-member squad, 16 players said they would face political persecution if they returned to Haiti, under military rule since President Aristide was toppled in September 1991.

Ernest Jean-Baptiste, sports director for the Haitian Television Network in Miami, said on behalf of the players: "We know that if we return home it would be political persecution, so we would rather die here." Trinidad has allowed them to stay until their fate is determined.

Judge values Warhol's fifteen minutes of fame at £300m

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FIFTEEN minutes of fame goes a long way these days. Andy Warhol's estate, comprising thousands of pictures, photographs and drawings by the late pop artist, is worth more than \$500 million (£338 million), according to a New York judge.

The ruling that the foundation which inherited the works had significantly undervalued the collection comes at the end of a long legal campaign by Edward Hayes, former lawyer to the Andy Warhol Foundation of the Visual Arts, who claims he is owed 2 per cent of the estate's value based on a contract he signed at the time of Warhol's death in 1987.

The Warhol Foundation maintained that the collection, which includes 763 paintings and more than 80,000 prints and photographs, was worth

just \$220 million based on an assessment by Christie's auction house.

Mr Hayes, a flamboyant and combative character who was the model for Tom Kilian, the canny lawyer in Tom Wolfe's novel *Bonfire of the Vanities*, insisted the collection, and therefore his fee, was worth far more.

On Thursday Judge Eve Preminger agreed, concluding that the fair market value of the entire estate was \$309.9 million including property and securities.

The judge also questioned the role of Christie's, saying that an official from the auction house met improperly with Archibald Gillies, the president of the Warhol Foundation, to discuss selling art works while an appraisal was being conducted. In 1987

Christie's estimated the worth of the collection at just \$95 million.

"The evidence... does demonstrate a conflict on the part of Christie's [by] seeking future business from the foundation at the same time as it was retained to render an impartial appraisal," the judge said.

Judge Preminger admitted it was "dangerous and possibly foolhardy" to attach a monetary value to Warhol's legacy and added that such a task "may be impossible to achieve with precision in the absence of a crystal ball."

Warhol, who maintained that "in the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes" but whose posthumous popularity continues to grow, died at the age of 58 following routine gall bladder surgery.

Roosevelt 'failed to rescue Jews from genocide'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt again stand shoulder-to-shoulder against a common foe. Revisionist historians, having dubbed Churchill "the man who destroyed the British Empire" and, most recently, a racist, have turned on America's wartime leader, accusing him of turning a blind eye to the horrors of the Holocaust and, by implication, of anti-Semitism.

According to a television documentary *America and the Holocaust: Deceit and Indifference*, aired last week, Roosevelt knowingly failed to protect millions of European Jews from Hitler's genocide.

Relying principally on research by David S. Wyman, historian and author of *The Abandonment of the Jews*, the programme alleged that Roosevelt went along with State Department anti-Semites who sought to stop Jewish refugees from entering America.

Specifically, FDR is accused of failing to bomb railways and gas chambers at Auschwitz and other concentration camps in the closing months of the war, and of callous indifference to the fate of 20,000 Jewish children when the Wagner-Rogers Bill of 1939 sought their admission to America. To support the latter charge, the programme showed a letter to FDR from a congresswoman urging him to support the Bill, across which is scrawled: "File, take no action". Roosevelt "refused to focus on the issue" of the mass murder of European Jewry, Mr Wyman claimed during an interview.

Writing in *Newsweek*, Arthur Schlesinger Jr, the historian, leaped to Roosevelt's defence, claiming "the at-

tack on FDR shows a striking disregard of historical context... in fact, opportunities for rescue were extremely limited until the tide of war began to turn towards the Allies".

Roosevelt's supporters point out that he appointed many Jews to public office, to the extent that the New Deal was known as the "Jew Deal" in some circles. They claim it is ridiculous to suggest that Roosevelt willfully refused to help the Jews when his personal loathing of anti-Semitism was profound and eloquent.



Roosevelt: "Ignored fate of children"

The "take no action" note about the Wagner-Rogers Bill referred to whether the letter should be answered, not the fate of the Jewish children, and was not even written by the President.

Using US bombers to attack the concentration camps, Roosevelt's supporters say, would probably have done little to interrupt Hitler's death industry and might have killed many more Jewish inmates than it protected, given the highly inaccurate wartime aerial bombing.



President Clinton stepping over Socks, the family cat, as he returns to the White House after meetings on Capitol Hill

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Rifts in ranks of Japanese parties point to early poll

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

SWEEPING political realignment gained momentum yesterday as Japan's ruling coalition and key opposition party almost broke apart over the choice of a new Prime Minister to succeed Morihiro Hosokawa.

Mr Hosokawa's resignation on April 8 triggered frenzied manoeuvring between the seven parties of his ruling coalition and exposed deep rifts within the opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

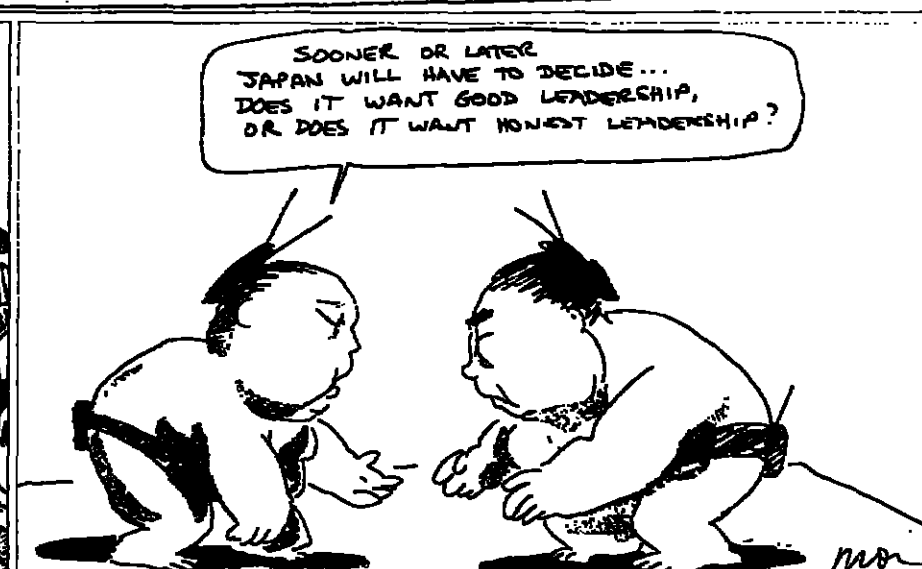
The shake-out is likely to continue well beyond the informal one-week deadline to have a new Prime Minister and Cabinet in place. The priority for a new administration is to implement Japan's 1994 budget, deadlocked in parliament. The continuing shift in alliances is likely to make the next administration transitional only. After a day of confusing reports of defections and alliances in govern-

ing and opposition camps, only two things are clear: that the LDP is on the verge of disintegration, and that a new political structure is emerging. Masahiko Ishizuka, a political columnist with the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, the financial newspaper, commented: "What we've seen is just the first step of a major new political system — and elections look more and more inevitable."

The LDP, for 38 years the most powerful party in Japan's parliamentary history, lost its hold on government last August when Mr Hosokawa swept to power on promises of clearing up politics. As the main opposition party, the LDP, while weaker than before, still had sufficient numbers in the Diet to bring down Mr Hosokawa, ironically with allegations of his shady loan and stock transactions.

A key figure in the drama is Michio Watanabe, a former Foreign Minister. Taking advantage of the political chaos, Mr Watanabe declared his ambition to run for the premiership last week and has set about forming a new party with other potential defectors from the LDP.

THE WORLD IN CARTOONS



Clockwise from top left: Bertrams in Amsterdam's *Het Parool* on Helmut Kohl's economic ills; *Le Monde*'s Plantu jokes that it took America two years to get to Bosnia because it is so far away; Japan's leadership crisis as seen by Moir in the *Sydney Morning Herald*; and Signe's ironic view of Rwanda in the *Philadelphia Daily News*



Wilkinson: abducted

Cambodia sighting

Canberra: Two Britons and an Australian kidnapped by gunmen in Cambodia earlier this week have been sighted alive near where they were abducted, a spokeswoman for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said yesterday.

Kelly Wilkinson, 24, an Australian, Dominic Chappell, 25, and Tina Dominy, both from Britain, were abducted on Monday by gunmen thought to belong to the Khmer Rouge. (Reuters)

Union Jack dumped by Keating party

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE governing Labor Party removed the Union Jack from its logo yesterday as part of a push for Australia to sever links with the British Crown and to become a republic.

Since the 1970s the party has used a logo based on the Australian flag which incorporates the Union Jack. Party officials said the new logo retains the flag's other main features, including the Southern Cross star constellation.

Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, has outlined plans to declare a republic by 2001, when he hopes the national flag will also be changed.

In another attack on the monarchy, Michael Lavarch, the Attorney-General, said the exclusion of Roman Catholics from the throne and the priority given to male heirs was unconstitutional and unacceptable to Australia. Announcing that the government will soon unveil its

preferred style for a republic, Mr Lavarch told the New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties this week: "The rules which provide for royal succession are unacceptable to current Australian community values and the laws of Australia." He also took issue with the link between the monarchy and the Church of England.

Mr Lavarch expects that a new Australian head of state will be appointed by parliament, recognising that the position will be symbolic and hold little power.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey, a leading right-wing monarchist, reacted by calling the Prime Minister "a wallaby in a china shop" when it came to dealing with Australia's Anglo traditions. Mr Blainey accused Mr Keating of being too willing to tamper with mainstream Australian tradition to win the votes of ethnic minorities.

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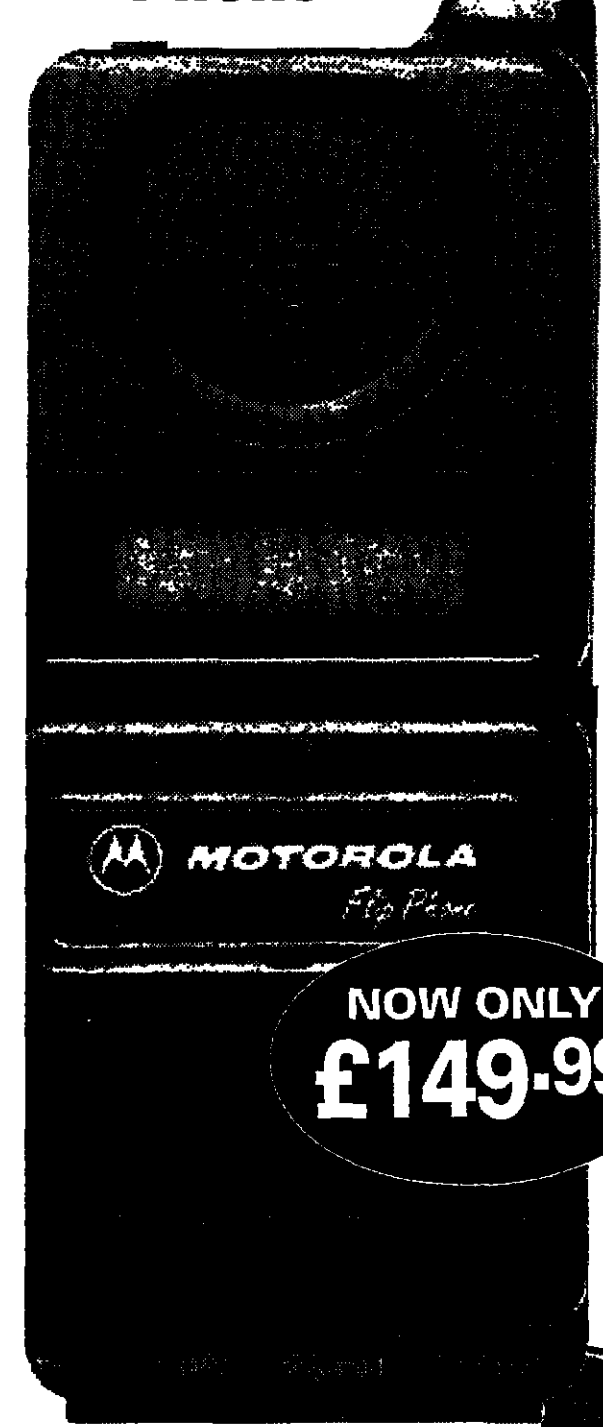
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Those who can, do. Those who can't, boo. That is all we can learn from Thursday night's events at Covent Garden, where an opera by one composer, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, was jeered by the chums of another.

His name is Frederick Stocken. Aged 26, he is a church organist in south London with few known compositions to his name. Yet in the numerous articles written about him and his "Hecklers" in the past two weeks, there are curious allusions to him being "compared with Mozart". Compared by whom? Surely not by anybody who knows that by the age of 26 Mozart had written several dozen masterpieces.

Mr Stocken shudders at the sound of Birtwistle. Fair enough; a Birtwistle in full flood is not exactly a thing of beauty — though at least half a dozen Birtwistle pieces are regularly performed around the world as modern classics. Nevertheless, Mr Stocken wants to

There are modern composers to suit the tastes of all who will listen, Richard Morrison says

How the boo boys could say hurrah

extinguish the sound of Birtwistle and other complex, dissonant composers. He believes in a world in which composers exist to cheer people up with nice tunes.

There is nothing new about his complaints. They are reminiscent of the accusations levelled against Shostakovich and Prokofiev by Stalin's henchmen in the late 1940s. Hitler also knew what he liked (Wagner) and banished composers whose music he considered insufficiently uplifting to the Teutonic spirit. Better, it may be argued, that composers are booed than that they are treated to Stalin's rather physical variety of music criticism. After all, in Italian opera houses booing is a regular occurrence, usually

because the tenor has forgotten to "sweeten" the local claque.

But Mr Stocken and his teeny-bop friends choose to ignore one crucial fact. The most obvious characteristic of the present-day music scene is its sheer anarchic pluralism. The Performing Right Society lists no fewer than 21,000 professional composers in Britain and Ireland. Hundreds of new pieces are premiered each week. The rule for music lovers hankering to hear a particular style is surely "seek and ye shall find".

So, Mr Stocken, you want modern music that sounds as if it was written hundreds of years ago? The BBC has just mounted a large John Tavener festival, just for you. You

want witty, bright and communicative new music? Judith Weir's new opera, to be premiered on Wednesday at the London Coliseum, should be just the thing. Thousands of music lovers now flock to premieres by the likes of Philip Glass, Michael Nyman and John Adams, and find the tunes and harmonies quite easy to follow. No, Mr Stocken, it really is perverse to attend a Birtwistle opera — knowing that you will hate it — when there is so much else going on that will be more to your taste.

But why do I have to write this? Nearly every real music lover knows it already. The Tavener festival was packed to the rafters — and we are talking Westminster

Cathedral rafters here, not some recital parlour. In fact, the battle which Mr Stocken imagines he is fighting was won 15 years ago.

Yes, there was cause for dismay in the Sixties, when the music establishment was in thrall to Boulez and Stockhausen, and when the BBC music division refused to play tuneful scores by perfectly decent composers. The prevailing attitude then was arrogance towards the public. And many leading composers of that era, cushioned by subsidies or university residencies, undeniably lost the urge to write music that communicated with large numbers of people. Milton Babbitt, the American electronic composer, summed it up in a

notorious magazine article entitled "Who cares if you listen?"

But that was 30 years ago. Mr Stocken is tilting at windmills that collapsed in the gale before last. He might have been more honest if he had said that "out of 21,000 composers in Britain and Ireland, there are several whose music I don't like". But then he would not have hit the front pages.

Instead, he claims to have found a conspiracy: the Arts Council, Radio 3, music critics, music colleges, opera houses and orchestras are all in cahoots. They have ganged up to promote music that the public hates, while suppressing tuneful music (such as his own). This is nonsense. Music critics

despise the current Arts Council with every fibre of their slender bodies. Many people in opera houses and orchestras detest music critics. The idea of these people operating in cosy collusion is daft. Radio 3, meanwhile, is acutely aware of the populist challenge from Classic FM. And nobody has the money to schedule music that they do not think the public is interested in hearing.

So what are we left with? A disgruntled young composer stirs up trouble to win the kind of fame that his music alone cannot command. That is the uncharitable explanation. Yet we owe Mr Stocken a debt of gratitude. He reminds us that the British care passionately about music. As we passively watch our orchestras flounder close to bankruptcy and our schools withdraw instrumental teaching, that is useful. What a pity that these far more important matters do not hit the front pages in the way that Mr Stocken did.

New Man hangs up his pinny

The machismo male mercenary is back, operating without fear, favour or compassion, Joanna Pitman says

When I departed these shores five years ago to work in Japan, the sensitive, compassionate and caring "New Man" of the 1990s was just beginning to find his feet and ease — ever so gently — aggressive and mercenary Elthames man out of the frame of popular culture. The greed engendered by the hubris and economic over-extension of the mid-1980s had created an ugly, testosterone-driven cult figure, which, as Thatcherism began to falter and the economic boom showed itself to have been largely artificial, was clearly in need of a full-scale make-over.

Its replacement represented a soft and sympathetic breed. New Man was unafraid of being seen in fluffy pastel knits, feeding the baby and sponging the romper suit. He confidently declared his favourite sport to be tiddlywinks and he spent hours in undersized aprons, lovingly preparing quaint combinations of lentil purée and miniature pastry parcels of organic vegetables.

Cerebral, sentimental, even effete — his passive-demeanour reflected an attitude presumably originating from the west coast of the United States, that celebrated the call of the wild. A new, earthy culture in which men could confess and weep proudly in public was imported to this country to banish the loutishness of those obnoxious Ferrari-driving Eighties wide-boys.

Today the pendulum of popular culture appears to be swinging right back. We are about to see a return to the celebration of the cult of machismo. According to the evidence listed in a "hip parade" of trends and fashions, published in this week's edition of the London listings magazine, *Time Out*, the popular culture of the mid-1990s is being radically redefined. Caring, sharing, sensitive New Man is being steamrollered into oblivion and we are in for another spell of the rude and the frankly ugly, London reeks of aggression again.

If *Time Out's* business is the creation of youth style, then its youth is going to be ditching its organic muesli, interpenetration and glutony are in. Teeth should be sunk into bloody haunches of meat. Kangaroo steak for dinner (presumably *saignant*) is "hip". So are brains, taggots, suckling pig and plates of burgers and mash at eateries such as The Top House. Not for any self-respecting young Londoner the designer waters or organic alcohol-free health juices of the early 1990s; he must be prepared to get roaring drunk on potent Belgian beers and 7 per cent proof dry cider.

Contempt is likely to be heaped on any drip confessing to a penchant for tiddlywinks. He should be moving bravely on to the new fascination with violent sports. Mere bungee-jumping is apparently for wimps. Such feats should be performed out of hovering helicopters. Alternatively, for the less robust of heart there is speed sailing (windsurfing on a beach without breaks) or jetskiing.

It is easy to become desensitised to incipiently growing trends when immersed in the midst of them: but look for example at the studied ugliness of much of Britain's modern art. While progress must, of course, be made — and we should not vilify merely on the ground of a lack of aesthetic appeal (as did the contemporary critics of the early Impressionist painters) — should so many artists be seeking the crude impact of shock in their artistic creations through the use of mutilated bodies, bodily fluids and pickled, decapitated animals?

Perhaps this too is part of the rough, tough, culture of bare chests

and beer bellies. Such cults are not confined to Britain. Your typical boorish male in Italy drives a Lamborghini very fast and broadcasts to the world about his libido. In Spain he kills bulls with swords or pushes goats off church towers. In Japan he eats fish that could fatally poison him, and lops off his fingers to display courage. In Brazil he probably kills street urchins, and in Norway he kills whales.

But then machismo itself is a bit of a sham because the definition of what is considered "normal" behaviour varies enormously in time and place.

Why is overt aggression apparently being actively reintroduced to popular culture? Perhaps the 1990s set of New Man values was created as a reaction against Margaret Thatcher's overtly machismo style, to redress the balance from her gun-ho jingoism in the Falklands and her intolerance at home of "moaning minnies".

Today we sneer at John Major — a Prime Minister who is seen to be hesitant and indecisive and is unable or unwilling to disguise his shortcomings. The drive for young men and women to become tough and assertive again, to stiffen their spines and never admit to fear or compassion — in short to turn them into *real men* — is perhaps what the re-emergence of this new machismo is all about.

Yet nobody should have to prove their manhood in any society. It can only lead to the creation of a world in which moral scruples are despised as a form of weakness. But, then again, my views are those of a self-confessed "alien".

It can only lead to the creation of a world in which moral scruples are despised



Canada geese have been described as "the finest wildlife spectacle still to be seen", but some say they are a menace because of their voracious and aggressive behaviour

Under attack by wild geese

Graceful in flight, the wildfowl of the connoisseur is a menace on the ground to gardeners and farmers

This week's news that the starling has replaced the sparrow as Britain's "most seen" garden bird will fool nobody. Nor will the warning that magpies are an epidemic or that seagulls may carry bubonic plague. The true menace of the skies is being hushed up. Whitehall committees meet in secret but are petrified of action. The authorities are powerless. A goose crisis looms.

Two years ago a friend of mine dug himself a lawn. He lovingly levelled it and sowed it. He thought he installed drainage, but discovered after the first downpour that in place of a lawn he had a lake. Worse, in place of a garden alive with the flora and fauna of southern England he had the ornithological equivalent of a rotwell pen. The dreaded geese had come. The birds knew neither manners nor hygiene. They ate everything in sight, drove off every rival and excreted without ceasing.

Canada goose excreta, as every municipal park-keeper will tell you through clenched teeth, is a lethal substance, toxic, revolting and composed of inch-long pellets of green slime.

A well-built goose will defecate every two or three minutes throughout the day. A flock can deposit a hundredweight on your garden in a week. No use has yet been found for the stuff — other than to burglar-proof crazy paving — though I am assured in all seriousness that "an inter-departmental group is working on it".

Time was when Canada geese were ladies and gentlemen. Before Charles II brought them to Britain, retired north for the winter in what is America's most poetic migration. Travelling at a steady 45mph, they would work their way

up the famous "flyways" of the east and west coasts of America or the Mississippi valley, to nest in the Canadian tundra.

The Concorde-like profile of the *branta canadensis* in flight, with its grey-white body, black head and snowy white bib, has made it the wildfowl of the connoisseur. Sir Peter Scott called the aggregations of these geese "the finest wildlife spectacle still to be seen".

British Canadians do not migrate. They stay put and grow fat. Familiarity breeds nuisance. The population has risen from some 2,000 after the Second World War to more than 60,000 now, with numbers doubling every eight years.

The birds pollute water supplies, parks, golf courses and beaches. In Stoneham, Massachusetts, in 1988, thousands of geese stripped the town of every blade of grass.

A pair of resident geese is fertile for a decade. It can produce half a dozen goslings a year and see off, with great ferocity, any predator. Whether or not it preys on other wildfowl is a subject which is hotly debated. Certainly, the geese leave little room or food for any other creature. All that two geese need is a stretch of water and an adjacent park or cornfield and they will multiply like rabbits.

Americans are allowed to hunt the birds and have done so, in places, close to extinction. In Britain, goose hunting is permitted in winter, but in polite society is the shortest route to ostracism. Wandsworth Council might be loved by its

Simon Jenkins

ratepayers in other respects, but it fell foul of them recently when it ordered the shooting of 200 Canada geese that were polluting Battersea Park.

The Pied Pipers of Rentokil declined the contract out of fear of public reprisal. The Hamelin of youth London must live with its vermin for the time being.

This week even *Country Life* was driven to dub the geese the "bugs of the bird kingdom". Geoffrey Lean, the conservationist, catalogued the frantic measures being taken behind the scenes to meet an infestation he described as "out of control".

Last July intrepid environment department marksmen went to St James's Park at dawn and shot dead 100 Canadians, in total secrecy and using silencers on their guns. Milton Keynes is stealing geese eggs, hard-boiling them in a tea urn and returning them to their nests — harsh treatment for creatures of loving maternal instincts and one of which Milton Keynes has no wish to boast. Others are pricking eggs or coating them with paraffin, always well away from publicity.

This has done little either to repel the flocks or to reduce public sensitivity. Deep within the environment department's "Canada goose working group" is struggling not to reach a decision.

The department has passed the buck to the Central Scientific Laboratory for "more research into the goose's aggressive behaviour" — and probably told the lab to take its time.

The department is still smarting from the affair of the Ruddy Duck. This, like the Canada goose, is an extraneous species imported (by Sir Peter Scott) in the 1950s. The birds escaped and multiplied to 3,500 pairs.

These enterprising creatures made their way across the Channel, reached Spain and ruthlessly "hybridised" the docile and endangered White-headed Duck. This pollution of the Spanish ornithological gene-pool has Madrid up in arms. It wants the Ruddy Duck suppressed — or at least expelled back to North America. Britain is "studying" a response.

I am sure that repatriating 60,000 Canada geese — doubtless over the dead bodies of screaming actresses — is more than John Major wants to contemplate at present. I doubt if officials have dared tell even John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, of this horror.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is statesmanlike on the subject. Careful not to seem anti-goose, a spokesman yesterday was

sympathetic to the outrage of farmers and gardeners. He pointed out that geese can be shot in season and even out of season by special licence where they are a pest. The society is not against this, "but we are against shooting to reduce the overall goose population, without evidence that these birds are aggressive to other wildlife". The RSPB too is happy to await further research.

The goose conundrum is like many arguments over the balance of Britain's natural history. Canada geese are not natives. Like the rhododendron, the grey squirrel and the foreign wren, they are an import that has flourished in competition with apparently weaker native species.

Immigration authorities do not know quite what to make of them. The wild goose has a beauty and grace of movement that gives it charismatic status. It is the elephant or dolphin of the skies. Externally a startling or a pigeon by all means, but a conversation hard-bills a goose egg at its peril. Goodness knows where this will end. Every means of limiting the goose population or deterring flocks from particular locations has failed. These are the most determined of guests. Many a park-keeper must be laying poisoned bait. Many a lake-owner must be fitting a silencer to his gun. Sooner or later, the case for culling must be made.

But I too would be sorry to see these creatures disappear. Their sleek, wings beating in unison, grouping and regrouping in V-formation, offer the most majestic aerial ballet. Perhaps we can get them to migrate to Scotland for the summer. Or perhaps we should get used to wild goose paté.

Dog days for a British James Bond

SO WHO is your money on to play the next James Bond? We've already had a Scotsman (Sean Connery), an Englishman (Roger Moore) and a Welshman (Timothy Dalton) so it could fall to the Irish — Pierce Brosnan or Liam Neeson, perhaps — to prove that for Bond, at least, you only live five times.

Or do you think Hollywood will play safe with a proven, bankable star such as Mel Gibson or Michael Keaton? Or will the producers gamble on relative newcomers such as Ralph Fiennes or Hugh Grant? *Faîtes vos jeux*, as someone invariably says in a Bond film.

Well, hold it right there. Let me save you all a lot of money by revealing that the next actor to play Bond may well go by the name of Bond — or Rover, or Fido, or Rex — Yes indeed — birchdaying Shep... Yes indeed — grabbing the headlines, but word on the strip

is that it's the thespian canines that are currently hot to trot. And not on the end of a lead.

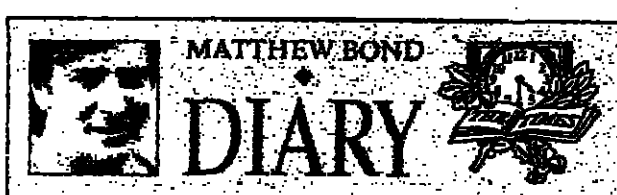
Young blood must still have its course, but a day, it seems, is no longer enough for the theatrically-inclined dog. What they want is a leading role. Equity members may be feeling aggrieved by the freelance efforts of a few star-struck politicians, but events in the showbusiness world suggest that the real threat to their livelihood is to be found snapping at their RADA-trained heels. Literally.

Those at the forefront of the new wave (dubbed the pooch-pack by *Variety*) are learning fast. They may not be walking on their hind legs quite yet, but already they can bitch and back-bite like seasoned

professionals.

"Why all the fuss about Sir John Gielgud?" grumbled one smoochy Labrador this week. "He's only 12 and three-quarters."

Nor do the leading dogs seem to be losing much time in learning how to throw the backstage tantrum. A black poodle which labours under the stage-name of Poodle was this week sacked from Michael Palin's new play, *The Weekend*. The fur fairly flew, apparently, after Poodle demanded fillet steak, chocolate drops and dressing room No 1. But it's a tough world, as Poodle, who slunk out of the stage door growl-



ing something about discrimination, has learnt. His part was taken by Pippa, a white Jack Russell, who emerged from the opening night for rave reviews and is now hotly tipped for a Lassie award.

With kennels as likely to be littered with scripts and copies of *Hellol* as old bones, the competition for parts is fierce. Just as teenage girls queued around the Old Vic to audition to play Cathy in

it became known that the canine star of *The Cherry Orchard* had been detained at Calais. British farmers may be free to join the French farmers' union, but theatrical *chiens* are not allowed to practise their art in Britain, it seems. Nothing to do with Equity: it's the quarantine rules. A west London shih-tzu gratefully seized his big break with four paws.

Just as it is for their human counterparts, "resting" can be a big problem for starry-eyed dogs. Many are forced into trying to scrape a living doing a bit of runway modelling (you mention catwalks at your peril). If anything, the dog-show world is more ruthless than the theatre, as Rory, a 120lb rottweiler, this week found out.

A recumbent Rory's dopey grin might not have gone down well with the judges, but it should with the Royal Shakespeare Company, which, mindful of the new fashion, has written a dog into its new production of *Henry V*. The RSC's casting department is looking for a guard-dog, which is "large and ferocious" while at the same time "gentle and docile". Oh! for a muse

of fire... and a Stratford kennel for a stage.

Should Rory make it to the RSC, he will, of course, have to pay due court to the company's most distinguished canine, Woolly. Now coming to the end of a long and successful run with *The Two Gentlemen and Their Dog of Verona* ("Don't ask me what it's about, dear boy, I've never understood Shakespeare. Some sort of early Italian sheep trial, I think.") the modest Woolly has become the most consummate of classical performers. As one critic enthused: "He even pants lambscally."

But the four-legged thespians have not had it all their own way, despite appearances. In Edinburgh, Mikhail Bulgakov's novella *The Heart of a Dog*, re-emerged at the Royal Lyceum as *Mongrel's Heart*. Despite a central character called Pochichov, it stars Bill Paterson. A human.

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TRIAL BY FIRE

The West is on the run — and the Bosnian Serbs know it

The United Nations was last night plucking defeat from the jaws of this week's small victory for international order in Gorazde. Checked on Monday by Nato in their opportunistic seizure of a UN "safe area", Bosnian Serb forces again called Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose's bluff yesterday, closing in on the town last night. Two British UN military observers there were wounded and a French reconnaissance aircraft attacked. A line of least resistance would be disastrous for the UN's authority, but Unprofor's main concern yesterday appeared to be securing a temporary ceasefire "to extricate our officers from the line of fire". Similar signs of panic are evident on the diplomatic front.

The Bosnian Serb leadership may be gambling that American attention is riveted on the accident in northern Iraq. It has certainly taken heart from the pathetic eagerness of the long queue of would-be mediators for the resumption of talks. Lord Owen is dragging his old plan for the division of Bosnia out of his briefcase. Nobody has contradicted the assertion of Russia's envoy, Vitali Churkin, that the Serbs should be allowed to keep their gains in Gorazde as part of a general ceasefire without guarantees that the Serbs will yield land elsewhere. Just when he should be turning up the heat, Bill Clinton says defensively that the US does not want to change the military balance in Bosnia.

The Serbs have not unreasonably concluded that the West is in one of its periodic fits of panic and wants peace at any price. Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, has accordingly told the UN to lift sanctions against Serbia before he will negotiate — a demand he would not have dreamt of a week ago. As they have done every time they sense weakness or division, his protégés in Pale are again trying what force will do, taking UN peacekeepers hostage, threatening Nato aircraft, blocking and mining relief routes, shelling Tuzla airport and the British UN contingent in Maglaj and, until now passes by Nato aircraft convinced them otherwise,

threatening to seize back heavy weaponry from UN depots near Sarajevo.

Their leader, Radovan Karadzic, has even had the gall to write to the UN Secretary-General that "the good manners we displayed out of our trust in you are now a thing of the past". When Mr Karadzic talks of his honour, no UN spoon is long enough. All negotiations should be frozen until all UN and other foreign personnel are unconditionally released. The UN can afford to be tough: time is no longer, for all the Bosnian Serbs' bluster, on their side.

The Washington agreement between the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Croats has not only been formally ratified by both sides, but is being implemented at an encouraging pace. In southwest Bosnia, their forces have agreed to UN-supervised disengagement, and in the east, the thinly spread Bosnian Serb troops are for the first time faced with the possibility of serious military opposition from newly combined Bosnian Muslim and Croat forces. Their thrust against Gorazde masks an increasingly bleak military stand-off. That is why they want a general ceasefire which, they hope, would in time become the effective frontier, consolidating their gains. Their paymasters in Serbia proper, whose once relatively prosperous economy lies in ruins, need and desperately want sanctions lifted.

The Russian government is furious with its Serb friends for provoking the UN. It has strong domestic reasons for wanting a settlement, and does not want to pick a fight with the West over Bosnia. The Washington plan for a Bosnian confederation offers the basis for a viable compromise. There is no reason to relax the demand that the Bosnian Serbs must accept the Bosnian government's reasonable territorial claims. General Rose's courage in imposing the beginning of order in Bosnia could easily be betrayed at this critical juncture. The West must stop behaving as though the Serbs held all the cards: giving in to blackmail has not paid before, and it will not do so now.

POLLS THAT PERPLEX

How can the Tories find a winner?

The mood at Westminster is less febrile than it was before the recess, when the memory of the Prime Minister's fumbling over Europe was still vivid. Now MPs have to concentrate on the local and European elections; any campaigning for the leadership will be discreet until those results come in. John Major would be unwise, however, to misread this lull as a permanent return to calm.

The Prime Minister may have been cheered by an ICM poll this week which seemed to suggest that his rivals would fare worse at the voting booths than he. Michael Heseltine has improved his position since February, but still scores lower than Mr Major: only 13 per cent say that they would be more likely to vote Conservative if he were Prime Minister, while 15 per cent say that they would be less likely to do so.

There could be scant consolation here. Tory MPs think of little else but leadership prospects; but to many voters a change in the leadership of the Conservative Party is so remote an event as to be hypothetical. Few have worked through the possibilities, or can yet imagine what a Tory Government would be like led by Mr Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, or any of the others who may throw their hats in the ring. In November 1989, a full year before Margaret Thatcher was deposed, ICM asked the same question and found that while 8 per cent would be more likely to vote Conservative if Mr Major led the party, 11 per cent would be less likely. Mr Heseltine, by contrast, had a positive balance of six points. Yet, by the time the contest began, Mr Major scored as well as his rival.

RUN, RABBITS, RUN

From Greenwich to The Mall is good sport for all

In its 13 years, the London Marathon has acquired a pedigree of excellence. That excellence is not just the awesome stamina of the elite runners and the smoothness of the organisation, but also the quality of determination shown by all the competitors, male and female, able-bodied and disabled. When more than 26,000 gather at Greenwich tomorrow morning, only a few will be in the running to win the big prize money. The success of this event is that most of the athletes would be prepared to pay serious money just for the privilege of running the 26 miles 385 yards to The Mall past the most famous urban scenery in the world.

The London Marathon has become one of Britain's leading sports events. Since 1981, something like £45 million has been raised in individual sponsorship for charities. Tomorrow hundreds of thousands of people will line the route to cheer and to puff vicariously. Millions will watch on television. Although they will be excited by the struggle for first place, they will also identify with the ordinary person trying to fulfil his or her physical potential. Many spectators will wonder whether next year they could complete the historic Phidippides distance, that is how athletic dreams are born.

If the London Marathon and the growth of interest in physical fitness have transformed the lives of many adults, it is also important that children and Sally Olympian feats of Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell, Chris Boardman and Adrian Moorhouse, should have the opportunity to

Meanwhile, the answers of the respondents are so imprecise as to be almost useless. How likely were they to vote Conservative in the first place? If a replacement leader makes their support more or less likely, does that translate into a change of party allegiance, or simply a warmer or cooler feeling towards the party in power? Pollsters ought instead to ask exactly how people would vote with different leaders.

To compound the inexactitude, many members of the public are so disenchanted with politicians as a class that they might actually relish telling pollsters that no candidate for the leadership could induce them to change their vote. Mother Teresa could lead the Conservatives, and the party would still be unpopular.

In 1990 the polls clearly showed that the Tories would do better without Mrs Thatcher. But parallels with that time can be misleading. Then Mrs Thatcher was seen as the main obstacle to the removal of the poll tax. Now there is no obvious policy change that a new Prime Minister would make. He or she might, however, prove to be more competent, more visionary or a better leader. These are intangible qualities that would eventually feed through to higher public support but are unlikely to infect people with enthusiasm in advance.

Ultimately Tory MPs must trust their instincts. They will have to weigh up questions of loyalty and honour against those of political ability and leadership. At this stage of the game, badly worded opinion polls only provide dangerous delusions.

A new way ahead in Bosnia conflict?

From the Chairman of the All Party British Yugoslav Parliamentary Group, and others

Sir, Following recent developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina the United Nations has correctly decided that there is an urgent need to resume the process of a negotiated settlement. This can only succeed with the co-operation of all three of the participants in the civil war.

As a result of Nato's action David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg now have the task of convincing the Serbs that in spite of developments last week, a negotiated settlement is the only real way forward.

At the same time the international community has to impress on the Bosnian administration in Sarajevo that they too are subject to the same requirements as the Serbs and that the international community will not accept the use of safe havens as a launch pad for artillery or infantry attacks on Bosnian Serb positions. The Muslims must be told that any party that fails genuinely to participate in the mediation process in good faith will be exposed publicly.

The international community in turn should now examine the question of sanctions against neighbouring Serbia and Montenegro, who are not participants in the Bosnian civil war. As they have influence on the Bosnian Serbs they need to be encouraged to use it.

It is vital that the question of sanctions should now be reviewed and that the process of removing sanctions against "Yugoslavia" is linked directly to progress at the negotiating table. As a sign of good faith United Nations resolution 820 — referring to the now obsolete Vance-Owen peace plan — should be reconsidered with a particular view to removing the restrictions it placed on the transportation of medical goods into "Yugoslavia".

Yours etc,
ROBERT N. WAREING
(Liverpool West Derby, Lab),
(Chairman, British Yugoslav Parliamentary Group),
HAROLD ELLESTON
(Blackpool North, C),
DAVID FABER
(Westbury, C) (Vice-Chairman),
DON FOSTER
(Bath, Lib Dem), (Treasurer),
House of Commons,
April 14.

Believe it or not

From Mr C. J. Hilton

Sir, Benedict Nightingale says, in his review of *The Merchant of Venice* on April 12, that "it takes a vast suspension of disbelief to imagine Clifford Rose's sophisticated Antonio spitting on a fellow businessman and calling him a dog".

On the front page of the same issue, Michael Binyon reports that Mr Vladimir Zhirinovskiy "shouted abuse and threw plants and gravel at Jewish students protesting over his visit to Strasbourg... He spat in the faces of some of them".

What was that about a vast suspension of disbelief?

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HILTON,
20 North Avenue, Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
April 14.

Red telephone boxes

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, May I suggest that Mr Simon Jenkins (article, April 6; also letters, April 11) should sit himself in a wheelchair and without raising his backside from the seat try to use the telephone in one of the BT red boxes he so admires.

Yours faithfully,
TEBBIT,
House of Lords,
April 11.

Twists and turns

From Mr Neville Flavell

Sir, Your brief item (early editions, April 12) mentions "the world's first corkscrew, designed... in 1795". But in 1743 and 1744 Richard Dalton, a Sheffield merchant, was sending to Hull for shipment to the Baltic and elsewhere locally-made corkscrews and other hardware. It seems unlikely, from the invoices in the John Rylands Library, Manchester, that they were innovative at that date.

Yours sincerely,
N. FLAVELL,
45 Carr Bank Lane,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Watch it

From Mrs Angela Casey

Sir, Mr Peter Colbourne (letter, April 13) suggests a new watchdog for the Government — Offgov. There are many other watchdogs which could be set up. For instance, a regulator for sliding — Offsliders or for footballers — Offsiders or Offstage for the theatre business. The possibilities are endless.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA CASEY,
4 Cowley Road, Mortlake, SW14,
April 13.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

No need to slip into something loose

From Mrs Nona E. Donner

Sir, At last — someone who has the courage to speak out about women's figures and fashions! I was delighted to read the article in your Weekend section of April 9 by Mary Ann Sieghart; like her, I often wonder why women put up with such ludicrous fashions and continue to diet and fast to be totally unlike what Nature intended.

I am now 73 and have always taken an interest in fashions. There is no doubt in my mind that the current fad to be thin is triggered off by the models on the catwalks and endless photographs of thin, scraggy women.

If only the designers and women's glossy magazines had the courage to depict women as they really are there would be no need for the endless dietary information we see in every magazine and on television. Women were meant to be happy, contented, voluptuous creatures, not miserable and discontented skeletons.

Yours faithfully,
NONA E. DONNER,
17 Westfield Close,
Singlewell, Gravesend, Kent,
April 9.

From Mrs Marilyn Manning

Sir, I have no doubt that Mary Ann Sieghart dressed as inelegantly as she did for your photograph of her deliberately to prove her point — that slavery to fashion can have disastrous effects. In case I'm wrong, however, here is my advice to her.

First, she should give the dress to her teenage niece, for whom it was probably intended. The two very strong horizontal lines at her neck and neckline have a squashing effect.

Now for something flattering. A round neckline, or even a square one, will do, but a V is the most slimming. A dress with no waistline and a longer skirt helps the illusion. If she wants to show a shapely leg, a slit up to any height she dares will do the trick.

I'm not sure about those shoes, either. The ankle straps produce another strong horizontal line that chops

her down even more. Think vertical is the watchword.

If she takes my advice, Mary Ann will soon be looking as good in her clothes as out of them. I should mention that I am 5ft 4in, size 14, and often told how "thin" I am. All women should remember that "fashion" exists for people who have no style.

Oh... and don't let anyone photograph you up against a brick wall: all you need is a number on your chest to complete the mug-shot look.

Yours,
MARILYN MANNING,
17 Guessers Road,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire,
April 9.

From Mrs Penelope Yarwood

Sir, I wholeheartedly agree with Mary Ann Sieghart. I also note that out of the 70 "Gentlemen" advertising for companions in the Saturday Review column of the same issue, only three express a preference for "curvy", "shapely", or "Rubenesque" figures, whilst 15 asked for "slim/ish" and one seeks a "sylph".

Like Ms Sieghart, I am a dress-size 12 and have a curvaceous figure. I hesitate in replying — do I qualify as slim, or could a disappointed gent sue me under the Trade Descriptions Act?

Yours,
P. YARWOOD,
90 Long Acre, WC2,
April 11.

From Mr Richard Marshall

Sir, If Mary Ann Sieghart's article about the tyranny of female thinness was published in a genuine attempt to break the mould, rather than to feature prominently a large colour photograph of an attractive nude, why have you in today's fashion page, immediately reverted to the skinny waif type whom she criticises?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MARSHALL,
84 Campbell Crescent,
East Grinstead, West Sussex,
April 11.

Facing change in British television

From the Reverend Robert Marshall

Sir, British television is facing a period of unprecedented change and challenge. Your coverage of Media Audits' findings (report and leading article, "A programme for ITV", April 9) that ITV programme standards have fallen in the past year surprisingly omits any reference to the escalating importance of satellite television.

In your leader you are right to suggest that ITV "seems to be moving inordinately 'downmarket'" but wrong to surmise that "there is little the viewer can do about it, save to switch to BBC or Channel 4".

It will not be long before the majority of the population have more than 50 channels (in a variety of languages with different public standards) from which to choose. Market forces may yet save the ITV companies.

Rather, Media Audits' findings suggest that we need to look carefully at the whole future of television in Britain. As choice widens, quality suffers.

As the market broadens, public service broadcasting is too easily sacrificed. My concern is that we maintain quality, variety and choice without bringing down the British broadcasting world to some of the depths reached across the Atlantic and elsewhere in the European Union.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT MARSHALL,
(London Diocesan Communications Officer),
London Diocesan House,
30 Causton Street, SW1.

Price of consultation

From Mr Robert Key,
Minister for Roads and
Traffic

Sir, The Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (letter, April 9) criticised the £250 charged by the Department of Transport for the environmental statement on the link proposals between junctions 12 and 15 of the M25.

That charge represents only the cost of printing the document. The full cost to the taxpayer of compiling it is in the region of £500,000.

Because of the expense, the publication has been split into sections. The first contains a detailed summary of the statement, which runs to some 236 pages and costs £49.50. The second has been divided into 18, each individually priced between £4 and £29.

A non-technical summary of the statement is available on request, without charge. Some 15,000 copies have been printed, and 4,500 have already been delivered to properties close to the motorway.

Copies of the full statement have been sent to all statutory bodies directly affected and may be inspected at local authority offices and libraries, and the statement will also be available for inspection at exhibitions being arranged in the locality, where staff will be on hand to answer questions. I believe these arrangements are fair and reasonable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEY,
Department of Transport,
2 Marsham Street, SW1,
April 13.

From the Network Director of ITV

Sir, Despite your leader, few regular viewers will be in doubt about the high quality of ITV's programmes.

In the field of drama alone, ITV invests £192 million in 534 hours of production. In 1993, 115 ITV drama productions achieved network audiences of more than ten million viewers — two and a half times that achieved by the BBC.

During that year, 27 of the top 30 drama programmes were shown on ITV, among them *Prime Suspect 3*, *Inspector Morse*, *Heartbeat*, *London's Burning*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Peak Practice* and *Cracker*. The same standards of popular quality are set for all genres of ITV programmes.

You suggest that audiences could switch to the BBC and Channel 4, yet it is ITV's continued investment in quality which has established it as Britain's most successful channel and which will continue to attract viewers and advertisers.

Diverting advertising revenue to the BBC would do nothing to increase overall investment in quality British programme-making, though it has to be admitted it would be helpful to the long-term strategic interests of those, like satellite broadcasters, who spend very little on original production.

Yours faithfully,
MARCUS PLANTIN,
Network Director, ITV,
ITV Network Centre,
200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1,
April 10.

Routes in dispute

From Mr Spike Milligan and others

Sir, We fully endorse the concerns expressed by Lord Skidelsky and others (letter, April 6) regarding the Department of Transport's proposed upgrading of what we believe will eventually become the A27 Folkestone to Honiton trunk road.

What is true for the Downland landscape is also true for the Brede Valley "up the road", running below the Weald to the north of Hastings and joining the River Rother at Rye. Among the wildlife with which this beautiful valley teems are geese, duck, heron, snipe, swans and rare species of dragonfly.

Future traffic considerations, whatever the projected figures, cannot possibly justify the upgrading of an existing trunk road to motorway standards. The glories of our countryside, if not protected now, will be destroyed in piecemeal fashion under the department's proposals and our memories of them will be tainted with regret that we failed to address the issues with the proper means at our disposal.

Yours sincerely,
SPIKE MILLIGAN,
FAY GODWIN,
JONATHAN FREWEN (Chairman),
Save the Brede Valley Group,
The Sheephouse, Brede, Rye, Sussex,
April 12.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Welsh decision on women priests

From Father David Nicholson

Sir, The report, "Welsh bishops may defy traditional clergy on ordination of women" (April 8), depicts a scandalous situation.

The governing body of the Church in Wales has followed its constitution down to the very last letter and after some 20 years of serious discussion the April 6 debate produced, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the vote rejecting the ordination of women.

Had the vote gone the other way, would the bishops be asking for the matter to be brought back again to the governing body in 12 months' time? The vote which took place in Lampeter is the product of much prayer and serious debate.

The Archbishop of Wales, I am told, called the members of the governing body to silent prayer before the vote and asked the delegates to invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Are we now to suggest that because the vote did not go the way "they" wanted the Holy Spirit was absent from the proceedings?

I rejoice that the Church in Wales has chosen to stay within the fold of the Catholic Church and has not, as was claimed by the Movement for the Ordination of Women, followed "the trend".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID NICHOLSON,
St Stephen's Vicarage,
Adelaine Street, Newport, Gwent,
April 8.

From the Reverend Neil Fairclough

Sir, In her front-page report on the Welsh Church vote on women priests in today's issue Ruth Gledhill remarks "that traditionalists had been campaigning for years to secure the majority of seats in their favour on the Church's governing body".

What else have the proponents of women's ordination been doing? Four voices in favour of women priests are quoted in the article but none against.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL FAIRCLOUGH,
The Common Room,
Dulwich College, SE21,
April 7.

From Mrs June Rees

Sir, So now there is no need to go to Rome. Come to Cardiff!

Sincerely,
JUNE REES,
28 Church Close, Llangynidr,
Nr Crickhowell, Powys,
April 7.

Harold and Vita

From Mrs F. Lilla Healing

Sir, "Bedim" or not "bedim" (article, April 2; letter, April 11), my friend and I were always warmly welcomed by Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst in those happy days.

She was delighted to share her love and knowledge of the flowers and plants in her garden. For us these were rewarding and enriching days. To our regret we were unable to accept her invitation to "visit the garden in moonlight at any time".

Yours sincerely, a survivor,
F. LILLA HEALING,
New House West, Church Lane,
Ripe, near Lewes,
East Sussex,
April 11.

From Mr Charles St J. Pulley

Sir, As Harold Nicholson's secretary for something under a year in 1936-37, I well recall Harold and Vita treating their employees with the same friendliness and kindness as they did their personal friends.

When I took on the post it was agreed that I would take down and type any letters which Vita might want to send out when she visited London. On these occasions she always offered me sherry while I was taking letters down and came out to recharge my glass while I was typing.

On one particular occasion I also discovered in Vita a streak of humility. I had done a small amount of secretarial work for her at Sissinghurst but I had also been made a welcome guest; so naturally I wrote a normal letter of thanks after leaving. This gave Vita great pleasure, which made me think that she had not expected to hear from me.

I don't think Harold ever expected great success in politics. He warned me, when I came to him, not to think that I might be hitching my wagon to a rising star.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES ST J. PULLEY,
Charterhouse, EC1,
April 13.

Ducking back in

From Mrs H. Edridge

Sir, How glad I am that Mr John McGregor (letter, March 31) did not achieve his wish. We did not shoot the manager, the Test team was not sent home, and therefore there was no need to compensate the West Indies for any financial loss.

England's cricketers are victorious and looking forward to future success.

Yours faithfully,
HAZEL EDRIDGE,
Redmayns, Worlds End Lane,
Peters, Colchester, Essex,
April 13.

OBITUARIES

JOHN CURRY

John Curry, OBE, former Olympic and world champion ice skater, died yesterday of an AIDS-related illness at Binton, Warwickshire, aged 44. He was born in Birmingham on September 9, 1949.

THE first Englishman ever to win an Olympic figure skating title, John Curry forced his will on the ice skating establishment. The prejudice against his type of skating was such that some judges openly expressed their disapproval of a style they regarded as effeminate. Others kept their silence and spoke only with the score-cards hoisted shoulder-high in the days before the computer replaced them.

If in sheer number of titles he was not the equal of Torvill and Dean (though in fairness to him it must be considered that their achievements were in the different sphere of ice dance), Curry's achievement was the forerunner of theirs and paved the way for it. His originality and the manner of his victories had an incalculable influence in giving impetus to a sport in which Britain had, until then, not been a major contender on the world stage. It invested ice skating with glamour and created an audience for it.

The Curry years were distinguished by an unwillingness on his part to conform, to water down the artistic character of his skating. In the end he surrendered a little but the Establishment surrendered more in the meeting of minds that led to his *annus mirabilis* in 1976, when he won his three international gold medals, European, Olympic and world, in the course of one season.

John Anthony Curry was born in the Acocks Green area of Birmingham, the son of a precision engineer. He first wore skates at the age of seven at the old Summerhill rink, half-an-hour from his parents' house. His gift was so instinctive that within a few seconds he needed the support neither of the rink barrier nor of his teacher.

As he grew up, he was torn between skating and dance, a dilemma resolved by his father's insistence that dance was no pursuit for a man.



Perhaps he was unaware of the balletic influence which his son was able later to bring to his skating.

At 16 Curry moved to London to base himself at the Richmond ice rink, where he was coached by Arnold Gerschwiler and then Alison Smith. Life was not easy; he worked part-time, first in a Richmond supermarket and then as a receptionist for the National Cash Register company, earning just — and only just — enough money to cover his skating fees. He first established his pre-eminence in this country by winning

the British title, for the first of five times, in 1970. It was taken from him in 1971 by Haig Oundjian, an old rival, but he remained undefeated at home for the following four years.

His financial worries came to an end at the world championships in Bratislava in 1973 when he was approached by the wealthy American businessman Ed Moser, who offered to sponsor him. Moser took him to America where he could pick his coaches from among the world's best, in Curry's case, first Gus Lussi at Lake Placid and then the renowned

Italian Carlo Fassi in Denver, Colorado. The experience gave Curry an understandable affection for America which became, effectively his adoptive country.

Internationally, however, he suffered a serious setback in Munich in 1974, when he dropped to seventh place in the world. It was then that he seriously considered moving to dance, his father by now having died, and was offered a scholarship. But the prospect of Olympic gold, two years on, was a powerful incentive on skating's behalf. Even so, he once said, if he could have turned back the clock, ballet would have been his first choice "because of the traditions and generations of knowledge".

Oddly enough, he came close to defeat in the British championship in that triumphant 1975-76 season, when a thrusting young Robin Cousins threatened to take advantage of a serious fall by Curry. The champion survived and, moving into the new year, he skated flawlessly to win the three titles he cherished, European, Olympic and world.

Two of the nine judges voted against him in the Olympics in Innsbruck, the Russian and the Canadian, and both were suspended for national bias. Each had placed a compatriot first. Against that background Curry's victory might be regarded as unanimous. He included only three triple jumps in his free programme, elegantly skated to music by Minkus for the ballet *Don Quixote*. Nowadays men are aiming for eight triples, perhaps a quadruple, but traditionalists still sigh for the Curry of 1976, preferring skating of beauty and originality to gymnastics on ice.

Curry had, however, brought psychology to bear in preparing for the Olympics, having attended a two-week course of Erhard Seminar Training in New York. Carlo Fassi expressed disapproval but, with a shrug of his shoulders, accepted that "everyone has to believe in something and I let him believe in that".

Curry left the amateur ranks after his world figure skating championship in Gothenburg in 1976, an event undertaken against the advice of Fassi, who felt he had nothing to gain

and everything to lose. The skater was obliged seriously to consider his probable career as a professional since he had often expressed his abhorrence of the traditional ice shows. Not for him, he used to say, the tinsel and the feathers.

His first venture, therefore, was a surprise, for he signed an agreement with Larry Parnes, an impresario more associated with pop artists, and not, ostensibly at any rate, Curry's kind of man. They established a "theatre of skating" at the Cambridge Theatre, London, on an area of ice so constructed that Curry had substantially to adapt his technique. After that engagement Curry moved to New York, where he settled. He joined Twyla Tharp in still further bringing ballet techniques to the ice. Earlier he had performed a piece choreographed by Kenneth MacMillan at the Cambridge Theatre.

Much of his work in America consisted of master classes for young aspirants and television "specials", involving memorably Peggy Fleming in *Afternoon of a Faun*, Fleming, like Curry, was a former Olympic champion and pupil of Fassi. Drama also claimed Curry's professional attention, both here and in the United States. Curry liked the American way of life, often saying that he felt much more at home among the positive attitudes of that country than he did in what he saw as perpetually self-critical Britain.

But he was diagnosed HIV positive in 1987 and, when this later developed into full-blown AIDS, he returned to Britain in 1991 to live out the rest of his life at the home of his widowed mother, Rita, at Binton in Warwickshire, a few miles from Stratford-upon-Avon. "New York when you are ill is no place to be," he said at the time. In 1988 he had performed another Olympic champion, Jo-Jo Starbuck, in the *Skating for Life* show in New York, staged to raise money for AIDS research.

Curry never forgot his own early struggles to gain recognition, and was a generous supporter of the National Skating Association. He was appointed OBE for his services to skating in 1976.

SOPHIE HAMILTON-MOORE



Sophie Hamilton-Moore, boarding caterer and adviser to the Feline Advisory Bureau, died on March 22 aged 79. She was born in China on July 14, 1914.

SOPHIE Hamilton-Moore was the architect of the most luxurious "five-star" cattery in the country, the Stonehenge Cats' Hotel at Orcheston, Wiltshire, which became a model for the better class of modern cattery in Britain. She was also an author on the subject, and the exacting inspector of catteries for the Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB).

For Sophie Hamilton-Moore, the moment of revelation came in 1967 when she was inspecting local catteries to discover in which to lodge her own beloved Siamese, Pandora, before going on holiday. She entered one such kennel, a dark and filthy shed, to find metal cages stacked haphazardly on an earth floor. Back in her car, she sprayed herself with disinfectant and determined that she could do better.

Teaming up with Joan Judd, who had founded the FAB in 1958, she opened the L-shaped Stonehenge Cats' Hotel in 1968. It started with 20 chalets, but later grew, though never sufficiently to compromise the quality of care on offer: each cat had an individual chalet, heated by a thermostatically controlled infra-red lamp, a tree stump and run, cushion, bed and window. The cats were fed fresh chicken, rabbit or fish and difficult feeders were tempted with prawns. It was a model of efficiency and hygiene, which some of the best modern boarding catteries in the country went on to emulate.

Sophie Mary Hamilton-Moore was born in Tianjin, China, the only daughter of Major-General C. D. Hamilton-Moore, but spent much of her early life in India, where she was surrounded by animals. She was educated in England at the Royal School in Bath, where she excelled in

English, writing and domestic science. Despite her early ambition of training in medicine, she went on to a series of posts as housekeeper at girls' public schools. During the war she served in the FANY (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) and in the 1950s she ran a mobile snack bar at Stonehenge.

It was in the late 1960s that her work with cats began in earnest, after she had been made redundant, in 1967, along with other employees of the Civil Defence Welfare Section, as the welfare officer for the South Wiltshire area. By that point she had graduated from owning a series of ginger and other non-pedigree, to a Siamese, a breed which became her favourite.

Her work at Stonehenge led in 1968 to her appointment as catteries inspection officer of the FAB. To this post she brought a useful ability to inspire awe in whomsoever she addressed, so that, when descending unannounced on some unsuspecting cattery owner, she was nearly always allowed prompt admission. She also wrote the FAB's authoritative work on cattery construction and ran residential courses for would-be boarding cattery managers.

A wretched standard in British catteries was only one of her complaints. She also waged war against the Institute of Environmental Health Officers, whose guidelines for catteries she considered often penalised the good ones while allowing the bad ones to continue in their worst offences. She also encouraged the Ministry of Agriculture to take better note of the conditions in those catteries which it used for quarantine purposes.

Although she retired as head of the Stonehenge cattery in 1981, she lived only a few minutes' walk away and visited regularly. Her death was brought about by pneumonia, following a hip operation which, she hoped, would enable her once more to bend down to stroke her cats. She leaves her Siamese, Tuptim.

EVELYN KING

Evelyn King, headmaster and politician, died on April 14 aged 86. He was born on May 30, 1907.

EVELYN KING enjoyed the distinction — shared with Aidan Crawley and Reg Prentice — of having first been elected to the House of Commons as a Labour MP and then as a Conservative one. In his case, nearly fifteen years separated his two parliamentary incarnations — and it was only in the former that he briefly attained government office. The truth was that he was essentially a person who in early life dreamt visions which he never quite subsequently fulfilled. Certainly, he came to regard his educational achievements as more significant than his political ones.

Evelyn Mansfield King came from a family of Anglo-Irish origin. His father was Harry Percy King, a civil servant, and his mother, to whom he was devoted, was Winifred Paul. He was educated at Cheltenham College and King's College, Cambridge, going on to read for the Bar at the Inner Temple. He was Cambridge University correspondent for *The Sunday Times*, 1929-30, and retained an interest in journalism all his life.

He became an assistant master at Bedford School, in

1930 and subsequently at Claysmore School, Dorset. Then, at the age of 26, he successfully applied for the post of headmaster of a small and rather rundown school called Craigend near Edinburgh.

King had a flair for publicity as well as ambition and enormous stamina. He soon put Craigend on its feet and then turned his eyes once again to Claysmore, which was then declining under the headmastership of Aubrey de Selincourt, an agreeable aesthete who was never quite cut out to be a headmaster. King made an unorthodox deal with him — of the kind heavily frowned upon within the world of the Headmasters' Conference — whereby he brought some thirty pupils from Craigend to Claysmore and became joint headmaster with de Selincourt.

De Selincourt soon faded from the scene and King became sole headmaster. In his political autobiography *Closest Correspondence* published in 1969, he wrote, "I did not want the school to depend on me as a person," and so he made it into a limited company which appointed a board of governors under the chairmanship of Sir Harold Bellman. No one, however, could deny that it was King's empiricism, drive and considerable



charm which laid the foundations for Claysmore to grow from England's smallest public school into the co-educational public, preparatory and pre-preparatory school, with in all 700 pupils, which it is today.

Politics, though, were never far from King's mind. His relaxation was reading *Hansard*, for which work he had such an affection that, with J. C. Trewin, he wrote *A Printer to the House, Biography of Luke Hansard* (1952).

It was hardly surprising that in 1939 his political views polarised: he had visited Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia and was horrified at what he saw and greatly angered by Chamberlain's appeasement policy. When war was declared he at once enlisted in the Army. Somewhat to his embarrassment, he became an acting lieutenant-colonel within eight months. At that time there was a glut of officers and a shortage of civilians in vital occupations, so King returned to Claysmore.

Soon he was wooed by the Labour Party and, on his own admission, because he was against the Tories rather than for the left, he joined the party and was adopted as prospective parliamentary candidate for the Penryn and Falmouth division of Cornwall, which seat he won by a majority of 2,793 in 1945.

In 1947 he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. This promotion may have been a recognition of his ability but it still represented a personal disappointment. He had hoped, with his background in schoolmastering that, if offered a junior ministerial post, it might be at the Department of Education. Schools always remained a subject close to his heart: indeed, his maiden speech had been devoted to the radical educational changes which he then foresaw.

But King was never a dyed-in-the-wool socialist. He saw himself as part of an educated, right-wing element in the Labour Party which would lead it into a sane, unprejudiced middle-of-the-road position in which everyone could enjoy the full rewards of their talents.

He was soon disillusioned and, after fighting and losing the Dorset seat of Poole in the Labour interest in 1950, he resigned from the party. He

joined the Tories in the following year.

King was probably right to cut his losses. A former headmaster of a public school, who remained warden of that school while still a Labour MP, whose favourite recreation was riding to hounds and who had a son at Eton, did not easily fit into the post-Aldice Labour Party. Bereft of a job, King turned once again to education and rented another school, together with a farm, at Embley Park in Hampshire. His drive to succeed had not left him. Soon he acquired more land and the school grew and prospered while he sought a seat which he could fight as a Tory.

In 1959 he contested the Ichen division of Southampton, in which city he was a Conservative councillor, but lost it by a small majority to the future Speaker, Horace King. However, he was returned as MP for South Dorset in 1964, gaining the seat which had been lost to Labour at a by-election the previous year, and going on to become an assiduous constituency MP until he retired in 1979.

King served on many parliamentary delegations, leading two of them, and all the while continued to write provocative articles, often for *The Spectator*. Yet, behind all his drive and restless energy (scarcely diminished even after the removal of a cancerous lung in 1969), there was a sensitive and compassionate man. He always went to infinite pains to sort out the problems of pupils and constituents alike.

He was someone who firmly believed in the unity of the family and his own marriage to Hermione Crutchley, who died in 1989, was a profoundly happy one. He leaves a son and two daughters, one of whom is married to the former chairman of the 1922 Committee, Sir Edward du Cann.

THE RIGHT REV JOHN MCKIE

The Right Rev John McKie, Assistant Bishop of Coventry, 1960-80, died in Victoria, Australia, on March 30 aged 84. He was born on May 14, 1909.

BORN in Australia into a clerical family, John David McKie graduated from the University of Melbourne before attending New College, Oxford, where he gained a first-class degree in theology. He was ordained in his native Australia in 1932, and became chaplain and tutor at Trinity College, Melbourne. During the Second World War he was a chaplain to the Australian Imperial Forces.

In 1946, at the age of 37, he became the youngest bishop in the Anglican Communion, when he was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of Melbourne (in which diocese he also became Archdeacon). Given the title of Bishop of Geelong he served in both capacities for 16 years, resigning in 1960.

In the same year Bishop McKie travelled to Britain with his family at the invitation of the Bishop of Coventry, Cuthbert Barsley, to become his assistant bishop. During this period he was also rector of Berkswell, 1960-66, and vicar of Great and Little Packington, 1966-81. He then retired and returned to live in Australia.

He had a lifelong interest in cricket, and appeared for his college team at Oxford under the captaincy of the late Brian Johnston. He played representative chess while in Australia, and was active in the Scout Association. His elder brother, the late Sir William McKie, was for many years organist at Westminster Abbey and was responsible for the music at the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and at three royal weddings — those of the Queen, Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra.

Bishop McKie is survived by his wife, Mary, and four daughters.

ON THIS DAY

April 16 1951



A tribute to Ernest Bevin (1881-1951), whose achievements as trade union leader, wartime Labour Minister and Foreign Secretary meant the man who left school at 11 was right to describe himself as "a turn-up in a million" was among the big men, men of strong hearts and strong opinions.

Like MR. CHURCHILL, who prized his qualities so highly, he seemed a visitor from the eighteenth Century: he was of the company of CHATHAM and SAMUEL JOHNSON, and like them breathed something of England into all he did and said.

His loyalties were simple, but they inspired the confidence of his fellow countrymen: they came from real conviction. He stood by his own people — whether in earlier years the dockers, or in later years the nation he sought to serve. He stood by his leaders — MR.

CHURCHILL learned to trust him during the war, and MR. ATTLEE will find him irreplaceable in the Cabinet Room now. He stood by his ideals. When he became a leading statesman, ready to learn from experience and open to broad new ideas, he did not shun the simple set Socialist beliefs which he had formed in earlier years.

Courage, physical and moral alike, was the quality singled out by MR. ATTLEE in his broadcast tribute. MR. BEVIN never lacked courage in a lifetime of hard fighting. His achievements in trade unionism — the creation of the sprawling giant, the Transport and General Workers' Union, and the strengthening of the General Council of the T.U.C. — would not have been possible without it, or without special gifts as an organiser and leader of men.

His command over a working-class audience was almost legendary. His weapons seemed so few, but they were always sufficient. He had a directness and blunt honesty which broke through even the most carefully prepared defences. He shared his countrymen's distrust of cleverness and slickness. He preferred the man who was openly his enemy to the friend who plotted behind his back. He was, as has so often been said, the working-class John Bull.

ERNEST BEVIN

ERNEST BEVIN, who was born only sixteen years after the death of LORD PALMERSTON, lived in a time of revolutionary changes. At his birth, the trade unions were ineffective and barely tolerated; at his death, they held some of the reins of government. Then, the idea of a successful political party representing labour was not given serious consideration: to-day that party has ruled Britain for more than five years.

In PALMERSTON's days Great Britain was the most powerful nation in the world, and her strength allowed him to bluff his way through most crises: MR. BEVIN, on the other hand, has been the spokesman of a country militarily and economically so weak that her voice — if at a moment of decision it had not been his voice that spoke for Britain — might have counted for little in world affairs.

In all of these changes (perhaps the three most important changes in Britain during the last seventy years) MR. BEVIN helped to direct the course of events. His personality left a lasting impression on all who met him.

He had his weaknesses; he had, certainly, a full measure of pride and prejudice; he made his mistakes, some serious. But there was no questioning his greatness. His place, one felt,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF Members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during the last war, during training and now, today, whenever conflict arises. Last year over £275 million was needed to help over 16,000 cases.

Please help with a donation or membership in your will.

Will you rise to the challenge, too?

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

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Rukba assists 5000 elderly people with a small, regular additional income and through a network of 750 volunteers. Extra funds are needed now to help more elderly people stay in their own homes.

If you can help, write to William Rathbone, Dept T, Rukba, FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8BR.

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Rukba

Helping elderly people stay independent

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CHURCH HOUSING TRUST

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Responsible for the 21072

TICKETS FOR SALE

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When recommending advertisements to the public, it is essential to state the full details of the ticket value and the details of the ticket value and the details of the ticket value.

WANTED

WANTED

Responsible for the 21072

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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HELPING HOUSE THE HOMELESS

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CHURCH HOUSING TRUST

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